

PRICE 6

HISTORY

OF THE

Venango Oil Regions:

SHOWING
WHERE PETROLEUM IS
FOUND; THE PRODUCTION OF
PETROLEUM; THE EFFECT OF THE
REPEAL OF THE GOVERNMENT TAX ON
CRUDE PETROLEUM; THE LOCATION, DEPTH,
AVERAGE PRODUCTION, AND OWNERSHIP OF ALL THE
WELLS ON THE CENTRAL PETROLEUM COMPANY, BOYD, HYDE
AND EGBERT, STEVENSON, TARR AND WOOD FARMS,
BENNETHOFF, PIONEER, GREAT WESTERN, BULL
AND OTHER RUNS; TOGETHER WITH
SKETCHES OF PETROLEUM CENTRE,
PIONEER CITY, SHAFFER, TITUS-
VILLE, PLEASANTVILLE,
AND TERRITORIES,

And other Places of Note in the Oil Regions.

BY

CHAS. H. HARRIS,

(OOF T. GOOF,)

BUFFALO, NEW YORK.

TITUSVILLE, PA.:

TITUSVILLE MORNING HERALD PRINT.

1866.

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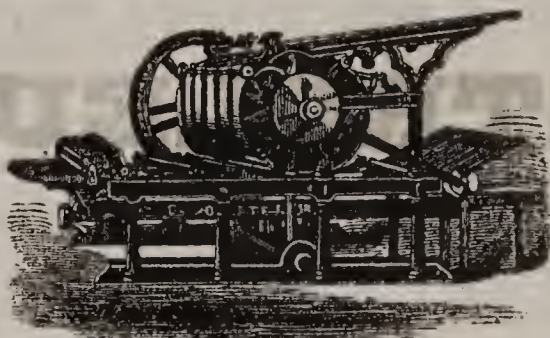
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H. B. Tibbits, Petroleum Centre.

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1866.

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ENTERED according to Act of Congress, in the year 1866, by
CHARLES H. HARRIS,
In the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States,
for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

P R E F A C E.

In offering the public this little sketch of the oil regions of Pennsylvania, it is with a perfect consciousness of its defects. No person however well informed, could, within the limits of such a work, embody all the interesting circumstances and events relating to this subject. Our object is fully attained if we have struck the principal fissures which communicate with the great "oil belt;" if we have selected the best surface shows; drilled into the "oil bearing rock;" maintained a perfectly reliable record, and "tested" to the public satisfaction. Many months residence in the heart of the region, and constantly employed in the "searches" for oil, and a newspaper correspondent, have afforded the author opportunities for personal observation and investigation not common to the general public. There is probably no territory in the counties of Venango, Crawford and Warren which we have not visited, and few, if any, companies whose representations are unknown to us, while every city, village, hamlet and cross-roads is as familiar to our pilgrimage and temporary sojourn as could be desired for the purpose of statistical descriptive narration.

The facts, scenes, incidents and personalities contained in these pages are therefore obtained at their proper sources and given with the fidelity, candor and impartiality which must constitute the best recommendation of

such a work to the general public. It directs attention to the most striking developments and the most attractive boring territory in the oil regions: it furnishes reliable statistics of past and present productions: it sketches the rise and progress and stratus of the cities and towns of Petrolia; it introduces the men who have made great the country and enriched themselves by a patient, laborious and legitimate industry; and offers some valuable hints and solid information to the inexperienced and curious. It is proper in offering this little volume to the public, for its author to acknowledge his indebtedness for personal courtesies and assistance to Messrs. Edward Fox, M. C. Martin, Geo. K. Anderson, Petroleum Centre; W. M. Cole, Funkville; William Spence, Bennehoff Run; J. H. Wright, Egbert Farm; J. W. Early, Bennehoff Run; E. C. Bishop, Pioneer Run; S. M. Hamilton, Stevenson Farm; C. E. Leonard, (Crocus,) Pithole, and to Messrs. Bloss Bros. & Cogswell, of the TITUSVILLE MORNING HERALD, a paper whose files have been an invaluable source of reference during the progress of these labors. I print but a limited number of copies, the larger portion of which are already taken by subscription. Should the demand exceed the supply, it may be reprinted in a more extended form.

While offering our work to the "oily public," we are yet confident that it will meet with the approbation of financially uninterested parties. In order that their approbation may be more definite, we would write a few explanatory lines in regard to the technical terms and expressions: "Royalty" signifies the amount of

oil paid to the land holders by the parties leasing. Companies occasionally operate or sink a well themselves, but generally the boring is done by lessees, who secure their territory for a limited amount of time ; and for which they pay a "bonus"—this being the term used to express the purchase money,—which parties paying such moneys are considered the "operators." Hence a party who is "operating" may either buy and sell, or sink the well himself. "Dry hole" does not mean that no oil was discovered, but usually expresses the fact that oil in paying quantities has not been found. So the operator may have really struck oil, and yet abandoned the well ; though indeed, if a well is said to have "struck," it is equivalent to "a big thing," or a good paying well for the owner.

C. H. HARRIS.

BUFFALO, N. Y., October, 1866.



PETROLIUM CENTRE, SEPT. 1862.—[From Photograph furnished by J. A. Sherriff, Esq.]



PETROLEUM CENTRE, SEPT. 1866. - [From Photograph by J. A. Mather, Titusville.

THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION.

As a business operation the production of petroleum has generally been carried on wastefully. It has been managed even on the most unpromising oil territory with unthrifty methods, and it has been needlessly made to cost considerable sums of money by the lavish manner in which the affairs of the owners have been conducted. Whilst the association principle is the best for the purpose of easily raising a capital, it is not the most economical in results. Given a certain work to be performed, and let the question be whether it shall be done by a company or by one or two individuals, the means being equal in each case, and the individuals will be likely to do better than the association. The reason is evident enough, and might be rudely suggested by the old adage—"too many cooks spoil the broth." Where there are many owners of a property, or many managers of a business, accountability seems divided. Each man trusts a little to his fellow, and his fellow repeats the confidence and trusts to him. Thus, as each expects the other to do something, as each in consequence does not do as much as he ought, instead of the association being benefitted by the conjunction of forces, it positively causes a subtraction of strength.

Then, too, the methods of beginning operations will differ in the case of one or two individuals who have resolved to embark in the business of mining for oil, and of a large number of persons combined as a company. The former having a large amount of money to be put in risk, will not part with it until they are satisfied that everything is right. They will not buy a piece of land supposed to be oil territory, hit or miss. They will examine it for themselves, and take the advice of practical men in regard to the value of the property. They will not take a title with their eyes shut, but they will have it carefully examined by good legal assistance. They will buy their machinery of the best manufacturers, and they will personally inspect their own operations. They will not leave to others the settlement of the question, whether they shall make anything out of their investments—they will attend to that themselves. In receiving, storing, and selling oil they will act with the same care and economy as the prudent merchant does in his business, and whatever advantage is to be gained by close personal attention they will have. Such men will be able to “go into petroleum” and make money, under circumstances which would swamp a company, or which would lead to so trifling results that what ought to have been a profitable investment will scarcely yield a dividend.

In the management of a corporation or association there are frequently many useless expenses. They are

considered necessary to keep the dignity of a company as a company, but they would be unnecessary in the business of a partnership. Many oil companies spend annually upon their offices and officers, upon the comforts of their directors and clerks, and in the general management of affairs as would be sufficient to make up a considerable sum to be appropriated toward a dividend. Then, also, the fact that when there are many owners with small individual interests who are willing to accept all the profits of their investments, but do not even care if they lose, because they can afford it, there is likely to be fostered among them a spirit of negligence, a feeling that they can "trust to luck," which is a prolific source of injury, and which encourages loose management among those who are considered accountable.

These are evils which press upon all oil organizations. When people go into a manufacturing or producing business, not because they know anything about it, but merely because others do so, and because it seems to promise a lively speculation, they must take the disadvantages. Probably they mean to do so, but at the same time it must be admitted that frequently by such a course they do more to injure their own interests than they do to benefit them.

ORIGIN OF PETROLEUM.

(From Bannan's Work on Coal, Iron and Oil.)

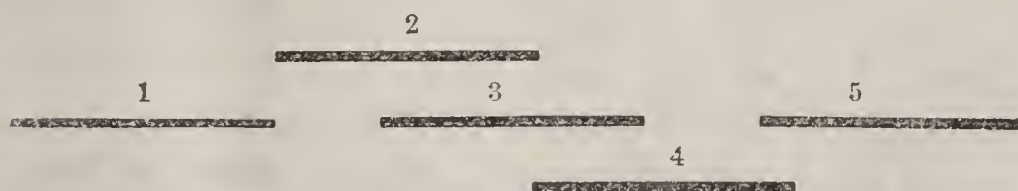
Petroleum is derived from the latin word *petra*, a rock,

Interests in producing wells for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

and *oleum*, oil or rock oil, and as such, has been known and used to a limited extent for ages. It is generally supposed that rock oil exists in fissures or cracks running across the strata and extending obliquely or perpendicularly toward the surface; but this theory is contrary to experience and the nature of petroleum. In the first place, oil is always found in certain horizons below a special sand rock in Venango county, and at a uniform geological depth in other localities; and in the second, if oil existed in fissures it would long ago have ceased to be oil and become solid bitumen from the escape of the volatile parts. In all oil producing regions the strata are nearly horizontal, but having a gentle inclination and a basined slope; but all such basins are necessarily extensive, because the low angles of dip increase the distance between the outcrops. The natural position of oil in the strata is similar to that of coal. It occupies certain horizons between the strata, perhaps irregularly, but always below heavy close grained sand rocks, which are impervious to the escape of oil and almost impenetrable to the most volatile gas even under the highest state of tension; were it not so but little oil could ever accumulate beneath them. Beneath each heavy sand rock of Venango and Northwestern Pennsylvania generally is found a soft and yielding stratum of shale slate and mud. In the strata the gas and oil find a lodgement as the first point of consideration. Arising through the rocks below in a gaseous condition,

the nearer it approaches the surface the less volatile it becomes and is arrested by the first impervious stratum.

The third sand rock of Venango, however, does not seal all the oil, the more volatile portions still find their way through the third sand and even the second sand stones, and from limited deposits of oil between them, but the lower or third rock seems to hold the great fountains of petroleum. The stratum of oil thus formed may not occupy a perfect geological horizon, since the shale in which it is formed varies in thickness and the oil may find a cavity in any part of it; at the bottom, in the middle or at the top of the stratum. Though the drill must invariably penetrate the covering sand rock, it may not tap the fountains of oil at that depth. It is possible that the depth of wells almost side by side may vary twenty or thirty feet or more to reach the same oil formation. A stratum of oil cannot be of great thickness. It may be only a few inches or one or even two feet thick; thus the stratum may extend from ten to one hundred yards in width, and from a hundred yards to miles in length, or it may be even more limited or more extensive. It may change from a lower to a higher position in the shale, thus:



And the drill may strike a flowing well at 4, only a

limited pumping well at 3, though but a few yards distant and nothing in shape of oil at 5.

If oil existed in fissures running obliquely or perpendicularly to the strata, it might be found at almost any depth from the surface and in the most irregular manner without regard to sand rocks. But fissures in rocks existed naturally and originally as vents for the internal heat or gasses of the earth and generally extend to the surface, and were these reservoirs of oil, we cannot see how this light naptha could be retained since the volatile parts would escape through every crack or vent to the surface and leave nothing but bitumen as a residue.

REPEAL OF TAX ON PETROLEUM.

The Government tax of one dollar per barrel on crude petroleum was glaringly unjust and oppressive, and its repeal by resolution which passed both Houses of Congress on the 9th of May, 1866, was hailed with universal satisfaction throughout the oil region. Its beneficial effects on the producing interest were at once apparent. Scores of small pumping wells which had been abandoned as non-paying, at once resumed, and notwithstanding the consequent increase in the general production of the oil region, oil continued steadily to advance for several consecutive weeks, everywhere developement was stimulated by the repeal of the tax, and the people felt encouraged to greater efforts by relief from oppressive legislation. Messrs. G. M. Mowbray

and W. Comstock, the committee, through whose efforts the repeal was mainly effected, were tendered and accepted a complimentary supper from the citizens of Titusville, and the occasion was rendered memorable by the attendance of the principal operators and capitalists of the oil region.

Average Price of Petroleum in New York and Philadelphia in 1864.

	Crude per Gall.	Ref'd per Gall.
January,.....	31 3-16	52 2-3
February,.....	30 1-4	55 3-4
March,.....	31 1-4	59 1-2
April,.....	37 3-16	64 7-16
May,.....	38	65 1-2
June,.....	44 1-5	77
July,.....	52 1-10	92
August,.....	52 5-8	87 3-4
September,.....	46 7-16	85 3-8
October,.....	40 2-3	75 3-4
November,.....	45 7-18	86 3-10
December,.....	52 3-8	92 9-16
Average for 1864,.....	41.81	74.61
“ “ 1863,.....	28.13	51.74

Total Exports from the United States were :

	Gallons.	Value from average price
1862,.....	10,887,701	
1863,.....	28,250,712	\$14,616,923
1864,.....	31,745,687	23,668,457
1865,.....	24,545,480	
January 1 to September 1, 1866,	39,619,428	

Prices of Oil 1865 and 1866.

1865.	Dollars.	Titusville.
September 18, at Petroleum Centre,.....	5.00	7.00
“ 26, “ “ “	7.00	8.00

Coal Lands on Alleg'y River and A. V. R. R. by S. A. Barnes & Co.

1865.			Dollars.	Titusville.
October 3,	at Petroleum Centre,		8.00	9.00
" 7,	"	"	9.00	9.50
" 25,	"	"	8.50	9.00
November 15,	"	"	6.75	7.50
December 15,	"	"	6.75	7.50
January 15,	"	"	4.75	5.50
February 15,	"	"	4.00	5.00
March 15,	"	"	2.50	4.00
April 15,	"	"	3.50	4.50
May 15,	"	"	5.50	6.25
June 15,	"	"	3.50	4.75
July 15,	"	"	2.50	3.75
August 15,	"	"	3.25	3.75
September 15,	"	"	3.75	5.00

The following table gives the price in New York at the first of each month, and the average price per month for the calendar year 1865:

	Crude.	Refined, free.	Refined in bond.	Naptha refined.
	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
January 4....	51½a52½	93½a94	73½a74	53a54
Av. for month.	49¾	90	69 13-16	56¼
February 1....	46a47	85a86½	66a67	54a55
Av. for month.	47½	87⅞	67 11-16	53 9-10
March 1.....	—a43	88a89	67a68	55a56½
Av. for month.	36½	79⅞	58 7-16	51¼
April 1.....	33a33½	72a73	52a53	45a46
Av. for month.	36¼	72⅝	52¾	47⅞
May 3.....	38a39	73a75	53a55	45a47
Av. for month.	36⅞	70 13-16	51¼	48¼
June 3.....	35a—	68a—	48a49	—a50
Av. for month.	34⅞	70½	51½	49¼
July 1.....	35a—	—a72	52a52½	—a50
Av. for month.	33	71 1-16	52 1-16	49¼
August 2.....	32½a33	71a72	52½a53	45a—
Av. for month.	32⅞	71⅓	52 11-16	45⅝
September 2..	31½a32	72a73	54a54½	45a48
Av. for month.	36¼	78	59¼	48 7-16
October 4	39a—	82a84	63a64	—a50
Av. for month.	37⅞	81	61¾	51 1-10
November 1..	35½a36	78a79	59a60	52a54
Av. for month.	39⅞	81 15-16	63⅞	62 15-16
December 2..	41a41½	88a90	68a70	52a53

Engines, new and secondhand, for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

	Crude.	Refined, free.	Refined in bond.	Naptha refined.
	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.	Cents.
Av. for month.	41 $\frac{1}{8}$	85 $\frac{1}{8}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	50
Do. 1865.....	38.37 $\frac{1}{2}$	77.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	58.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	50.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 1864.....	41.81	54.61	65.03	39.54
Do. 1863.....	28.13	51.74	44.15	28.50

WEIGHT OF OILS.

Mr. F. Phillips, United States Inspector for the Twentieth District, furnishes the following facts with regard to the weight of oils. The difference in actual balance weight of refined oil, benzole and gasoline from petroleum, to each degree in gravity Beaume's hydrometer, at a temperature of 60 degrees, is 13-22 of an ounce, 258 23-44 grains avoirdupois weight. For example:

COMMON BURNING OIL AT

40 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 14	ounces.
41 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 13	9-22 ounces.
42 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 12	18-22 ounces.
43 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 12	5-22 ounces.
44 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 11	14-22 ounces.
45 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds 11	12-22 ounces.

BENZOLE COMMONLY USED IN PAINTING.

52 degrees gravity weighs.....	6 pounds	1 ounce.
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GASOLINE.

70 degrees gravity weighs.....	5 pounds 12	6-20 ounces.
80 degrees gravity weighs.....	5 pounds 6	8-20 ounces.
90 degrees gravity weighs.....	5 pounds 00	10-22 ounces.
100 degrees gravity weighs.....	4 pounds 10	12-22 ounces.

CENTRAL PETROLEUM CO.

The first developments upon the Wash. McClintock Farm were commenced in 1859, the farm which comprises 208 acres was leased from Wash. McClintock to Brewer, Watson & Co., a perpetual lease was given which entitled them to bore and dig for oil and all other minerals, with a royalty of one quarter of the products. This was the third farm developed in the oil region at this time. The first producing well sunk was the "No. 1." at the mouth of the Wildcat hollow, a circular ravine of about three-fourths of a mile in length, running around a hogback of some 140 feet elevation. The well above mentioned at the depth of 350 feet, or at the second sand rock, was pumped and produced about 20 barrels per day; oil was selling at \$17.00 per barrel. The well was put down January 15, 1860; after pumping for about a year the production gradually decreased. The well was abandoned for a while, until Mr. Edwin Fox took possession of it, and he immediately proceeded to sink it to the proper depth, which he considered to be about 640 feet. Many were the misfortunes he encountered in the attempt to re-sink the well, but being possessed with that spirit of go-aheaditiveness he surmounted the many difficulties, and after some weeks of arduous labor the well reached the desired depth. The size of the hole drilled was 3 1-2 inches, and the weight of the tools employed was but 250 pounds, using very small

Choice Leases on Pithole Creek, inquire of S. A. Barnes & Co.

gas pipe for tubing. There was a well commenced previous to this in rear of the Wash. McClintock house on the banks of Oil Creek, which was sunk to the depth of 40 feet, or rather 40 feet of pipe was driven, and for some reason it was abandoned. (Attention was next turned to Wildcat hollow, as above.) It was put down by Kier, Mitchell & Co. on sub-lease from Brewer, Watson & Co. Kier, Mitchell & Co. sub-leased the whole farm, paying to Brewer, Watson & Co. three-sixteenth royalty. Brewer, Watson & Co. having three-sixteenths, Wash. McClintock four-sixteenths of the oil, which left to Messrs. Kier, Mitchell & Co. nine-sixteenths of the whole. The old "Bluff" well, then known as the "Wash. McClintock" well, was sunk by Messrs. Kier, Mitchell & Co., in July, 1861. At the depth of 475 feet it commenced flowing at the rate of 800 barrels per day, and in placing the elbow upon the tubing the force of the gas threw the oil across the creek upon the Egbert Farm a distance of about 200 feet. At this time oil was sold at 25 cents per barrel. This well flowed until December 31, 1861, when she suddenly ceased. The tubing was drawn and she was sunk 25 feet deeper, after being retubed to the depth of about 200 feet, was then pumped for about a week, but would yield little or no oil. Operations were then suspended upon this well until May, 1862, when Mr. Fox retubed with 475 feet of tubing. It was then pumped for a period of 10 days, still it produced no oil. The sucker

rods were drawn when it commenced flowing at the rate of 20 barrels per day, and at this rate it flowed for two years. This well was cased with two inch tubing, and one inch pipe introduced inside of the casing, which caused her to flow. After this flow had ceased, she was again pumped and produced about 15 barrels for six months, oil at this time was \$5.00 per barrel; soon after the tubing was again drawn and she was bored 50 feet deeper; it was deemed advisable to ream her out to the size of five inches; after all this labor upon this well, she was abandoned in 1865, after a few attempts to resuscitate her, which were of no avail. During the month of January, 1861, and at the time when the above mentioned well ceased to flow, the firm of Kier, Mitchell & Co. suspended operations for five months, during which time the old "Barr" well in the centre of the creek was struck at a depth of 500 feet, and produced 50 barrels per day for nearly a year, diameter of the hole was 3 1-2 inches. It ceased flowing and was drilled to the depth of 600 feet, but never produced sufficient oil to pay expenses; it was then abandoned. When this well was struck, Mr. W. McClintock claimed it, as an outside piece of territory.

The "Burnt" well on the bank of the creek was also put down by Kier, Mitchell & Co. in May, 1863, to the depth of 550 feet, and pumped 20 barrels per day for two years and a half; it ceased producing and was abandoned.

The next well was the "Fox" well, drilled by the Brewer, Watson, and Kier, Mitchell companies, and was struck at the depth of 560 feet, it produced 150 barrels per day for nearly two years; diameter of the hole was 4 1-2 inches, flowing a year and a half and pumped for six months was then abandoned. Col. Roberts is to put one of his Torpedoes in this well, and it is said from indications received at times, she will yet be a good paying well. Kier, Mitchell & Co., ceased their operations upon this territory, and sold all their right, title and interest to the New Jersey Oil Company. This new company purchased of Wash. McClintock the land interest and commenced operations, changing the name of the organization to that of the Central Petroleum Company and electing the following officers :

THE CENTRAL PETROLEUM CO.

OFFICERS.

President—JAMES BISHOP,	Treasurer—C. MEYER,
Vice President—W. H. BREEDEN,	Secretary—AUSTIN STEVENS.

DIRECTORS.

GEO. H. BISSELL,	F. PRENTISS,
JOHNSTON LETSON,	A. T. STOUT,
JAMES BISHOP,	C. MEYER,
W. H. BREEDEN,	JOSIAH OAKS.
Gen'l Agent—M. C. MARTIN,	Gen'l Supt.—EDWARD FOX.

The farm was stocked at 5,000,000 dollars.

Immediately upon taking possession of this property the Central Petroleum Company commenced making improvements and developing the territory.

Business of companies attended to by S. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

Fourteen wells were sunk in different localities upon the farm, twelve of which proved successful. "No. 1" produced 25 barrels per day at a depth of 550 feet. The largest well of the fourteen was "No. 5," and produced about 100 barrels per day at a depth of 550 feet. Ten of these old wells are still producing. In the fall of 1864 the Central Petroleum Company commenced leasing their territory, which had been surveyed into half acre lots for oil purposes, which were rapidly taken.

The first lease issued by this company was given to Geo. H. Clark, Esq., in the fall of 1864. Mr. Clark sank his wells upon his lease in Wildcat hollow. His first well was completed in the spring of 1865, and the second well was struck August 11, 1865; these two proved the most durable in this section, flowing and pumping about 150 barrels per day.

In October 1866, the Central Petroleum Company sold at auction six acre leases, (working interest,) prices varying from \$1000 to \$2000 each; the bidding was quite spirited, as a number of new wells were struck previously to the sales, on adjoining leases.

"Sigma," correspondent of the TITUSVILLE MORNING HERALD of October 19, 1865 says: "The lands of the Central Petroleum Company now derive from its own and leased wells, about 500 barrels of oil per day and increasing. There are some 38 leases on this property to be developed at once, which will convey some idea

of the strong confidence entertained in the production of this section ; there has been no falling off but rather an increase of the yield of all the wells in this vicinity."

The operations on this celebrated farm rapidly augmenting the steady increase of production, no dry holes were found, and it attracted investments from every quarter. The "Hunter" well was struck in July 1865, the "Meyer" well No. 1, struck in October, "Swamp Angel" No. 3, struck also in October. The production of the farm at this time amounted to 700 barrels per day, and under the supervision of Mr. Edward Fox, to whom we are indebted for many valuable items for our work. Mr. Fox was one of the earliest pioneers in this section and instrumental in sinking the first wells upon this farm, he was appointed agent by the company when organized and a faithful and efficient officer and invaluable manager he proved to be. Having charge of all the wells belonging to the company, we do not wonder at the success of the farm.

The increase of business from the growth of a large city and from the increased developments of the company, required an assistant to Mr. Fox in the management of the farm. In July 1865, M. C. Martin was appointed General Agent, taking charge of the disposition of the oil and leases and controlling the finances of the Company. In September 1866, Mr. Fox sent in his resignation, which left Mr. Martin in entire control of this property. Mr. Martin for a long time has

labored diligently to perfect the working of this territory and now has reduced everything to a system ; he is also agent and part owner of the Meyer & Breeden leases, of which we will again speak of.

The following is a correct list of all the wells on this farm, together with the depth, average production and ownership. The Central Petroleum Company own and control the entire land interest.

Cold Water wells "One" and "Two" flowed about 25 barrels for a short time.

Cold Water "No 3" also flowed about 25 barrels ; "No. 4" produced about the same.

Cold Water "No. 7" produced 15 barrels ; was sunk during the summer of 1864. The Cold Water Company have several leases ; the agent is C. S. Whitney.

The "Fox" well was struck about the same time and created much excitement. It produced nearly 200 barrels daily, but gradually diminished to 50 barrels per day. Col. Roberts torpedoed this well and she is now producing 60 barrels.

Geo. H. Clark's well, "A," in Wildcat hollow produced about 150 barrels. One of the first leases given by the Central Petroleum Company was taken by Mr. Clark, and he sank three wells upon the lease. Two were struck at a depth of 560 feet in the spring of 1865. Wells "A" and "B" have proved the most durable wells in this section and are still producing. Mr. Clark is interested in many of our largest wells.

The "Saxton" well in Wildeat hollow was struck in November 1863, and produced about 60 barrels; was owned by Alfred W. Coburn, John Adams and L. D. Saxton.

Well "114" was struck May 27, 1866; depth 534 feet, the first sand 205 feet and 34 feet thick; second sand 332 feet, 12 feet thick; third sand 455 feet and 41 feet thick, producing 75 barrels per day, and owned by M. A. McDonald, Esq. of Cleveland O., and Crane & Thaker, Refiners, Petroleum Centre.

Well "No. 119" struck January 15, 1866, depth 538 feet, producing 10 barrels daily, owned by Geo. K. Anderson. This will soon be Torpedoed.

"Dry Hole Well, 134" was struck in January, 1866, 566 feet deep and is producing 50 barrels daily; owned by Geo. K. Anderson. This well was Torpedoed by Col. Roberts and improved.

Well "153," testing; owned by J. Stambaugh, Esq.

Well "155" struck June 26, 1866; depth 512 feet, produced 75 barrels daily and owned almost entirely by David Yanney, Esq., of Rochester. Mr. William Blackman is the Superintendent of the Yanney wells, a capable and efficient agent. G. R. Griffin is also interested in this well. Mr. Yanney should receive something more than a passing notice of ownerships here.

He is one of the earliest pioneers of Petroleum Centre. During the early part of his oily career he met with many reverses in his boring and operations generally,

but with that indomitable spirit which characterizes so few of those seeking for wealth, he nobly combated every obstacle, worked bravely on with his own shoulder to the wheel of fortune and at last triumphed over both pecuniary and other difficulties, receiving for his pains the pleasant smile of approval from the world and a couple of flowing wells that soon made his depleted purse plethoric indeed. His operations on Bennehoff Run were a miserable failure, and one that would have discouraged any one of a less sanguine temperament. Time and again he tested his well after re-tubing, but that portion of the Warner Farm was not productive. Petroleum Centre may well be proud of Mr. Yanney, for his perseverance has prompted many others to the herculean and trying task.

Lease "156," being developed. Owned by E. B. Bailey, of New York.

Well "No. 159" struck April 9, 1866; depth 533 feet, is at present casing; owned by Geo. K. Anderson.

Well "No. 160" 589 feet deep; producing 125 barrels. Struck January 9, 1866; owned by Geo. K. Anderson. Col. Roberts improved this well by his Torpedo.

Well "No. 171" 560 feet deep; struck February, 1866; produced 20 barrels; is owned by Messrs. Custar & Hancock. Col. Roberts' Torpedo has been exploded in this well and has much improved its production.

Well "No. 172" was struck at a depth of 550 feet,

and produced 70 barrels per day ; owned almost entirely by Harry Derousse who is largely interested in several other wells.

Well "No. 173" was struck November 25, 1865 ; depth 602 feet, producing 30 barrels daily. Geo. K. Anderson owns three-quarters, A. C. Hawkins one-quarter. Torpedoed by Col. Roberts and is now improving.

Well "No. 174" was struck November 13, 1865 ; depth 601 feet, producing 50 barrels daily ; Geo. K. Anderson owns three-quarters and A. C. Hawkins one-quarter. Improved by Torpedo.

Well "No. 175" was struck August 21, 1865 ; depth 590 feet ; produced 125 barrels, now doing about 50 barrels per day ; owned by Geo. K. Anderson. Resuscitated by Col. Roberts' Torpedo.

Well "No. 178," depth——; producing 20 barrels per day ; owned by T. Collins and others.

Well "No. 189," producing 40 barrels, has pumped 60 ; owned by G. W. Abbey, Esq.

Well "No. 177" was struck March 26, 1866 ; depth 556 feet, produced 25 daily ; owned by Geo. K. Anderson. Improved by Col. Roberts' Torpedo.

Well "No. 180" was struck January 17, 1866 ; 511 feet deep ; producing 350 barrels, flowed four months ; third sand was 38 feet thick. Stopped flowing in consequence of jarring tools out of "No. 2" same lease, ("Yanney" well.) A Torpedo was placed in the well ;

after testing she was pumped two weeks, and produced 50 barrels; after drawing sucker-rods she commenced flowing at the rate of 350 barrels per day. The original lease was given to H. McWalters, Esq.

Well "No. 188" was struck March 15, 1866; depth 554 feet; producing 50 barrels; owned by Geo. K. Anderson and G. H. Clark. This well was improved by a Torpedo.

Well "No. 189" was struck in January, 1866; depth 543 feet. Fourteen-sixteenths of this well is owned by R. H. Sargent, Esq. of Coneautville, Pa.; this well is producing 25 barrels per day.

Well "No. 190" producing finely; the original lease was given to H. McWalters, Esq.

Well "No. 194" was struck in February, 1866, and produced 125 barrels per day; owned by the Atlas Developing Company.

Well "No. 196" was struck in April, 1866; depth 552 feet and produced 25 barrels per day; owned by Fred Hays and others.

Well "No. 192" was struck January 26, 1866; depth 526 feet; this well has produced a large quantity of oil and is one of the most durable wells on the farm, yet, very coquettish, varying from 20 to 100 barrels per day; she will average about 75 barrels; owned almost entirely by Messrs. Arnold & Phinney, who have developed territory very extensively on this and other farms.

Well "No. 193" was struck April, 1866; 590 feet deep and produced 20 barrels per day; owned by Bishop & Eldridge.

Well "No. 194" produced when struck 100 barrels per day, now doing nothing. Col. Roberts' Torpedo will soon be placed in her to resuscitate.

Well "No. 197" (Mahaffey) producing about 40 barrels No. 2 testing, good indications. No. 1 was struck in the Spring of 1866.

The original "Anderson" well on lease 198 was struck August 21, 1866; depth 601 feet and flowed for six months at the rate of 200 barrels per day, then diminished but was lately Torpedoed by Col. Roberts and is now doing about 50 barrels. No. 2 on the same lease was struck December 13, 1865; depth 636 feet and producing 50 barrels daily; the well has been Torpedoed by Col. Roberts. No. 5 on above lease is in process of sinking, the diameter of the hole is eight inches and is now down 500 feet. The lease and wells are owned by Geo. K. Anderson.

Well "No. 207," testing; owned by Harry Derousse of Philadelphia, one of our pioneers; depth 567 feet; good indications for a big well.

Well "No. 210" was struck January 19, 1866; depth 584 feet; produced 50 barrels daily; owned by Geo. K. Anderson. A Torpedo increased the production.

Well "No. 211" was struck in May, 1866; owned by S. L. Sherman, E. Fox and M. C. Martin; producing 80 barrels.

Well "No. 212" was struck in December, 1865; owned by Geo. K. Anderson, M. C. Martin, Edward Fox, and H. McWalters; depth of well 92 feet; first sand 238 feet deep and 42 feet thick; second sand 391 feet deep and 7 feet thick; third sand 518 feet deep and 48 feet thick. This well was Torpedoed and is now doing 50 barrels.

Well "No. 213" was struck in May, 1866; depth 556 feet; produced 90 barrels; drilled by Geo. Harris and owned by Howard Bishop of New York, and J. R. Eldridge of Rochester.

Well "No. 214" was struck in August, 1866; depth 670 feet; testing.

Well "No. 215" was struck April 20, 1866, and is producing 75 barrels per day. The manner in which the owners of this well conduct their affairs is indeed praiseworthy and is entitled to a passing notice. Messrs. Phinney & Arnold were among the early operators and have sunk several wells upon this and other territory. They have been very successful in each attempt. Their wells are easy of access and their facilities for shipping the oil cannot be excelled, as their business is conducted in a systematic manner.

Well "No. 216" produced 50 barrels; depth 560 feet; owned by Mahaffey & Co.

Well "No. 217" is owned by the Atlas Developing Company; testing.

Well "No. 218." Lease not developed; one well on the lease; tools fast; the lease is owned by Thomas Frothingham, who will sink another well immediately. Well down 200 feet.

Well "No. 220" was struck in February, 1866; produced 125 barrels; now producing 50 barrels per day; owned by the Atlas Developing Company; S. C. Stewart is Agent and Superintendent of the Company.

Well "No. 221" was struck July 15, 1866; depth 642 feet; produced 100 barrels actual measurement; fifteen-sixteenths owned by R. H. Sargent, Esq.

Well "No. 232" was struck July 4, 1866; depth 640 feet; produced 15 barrels daily; owned by George K. Anderson. This well has been cased and she is now improving.

Well "No. 233" was struck March 2, 1866; depth 560 feet. Well "No. 2," on the same lease, was struck September 11, 1866; diameter of hole six inches; depth 616 feet; both produced about 50 barrels and are owned by George K. Anderson.

Well "No. 234;" depth 592 feet and producing 80 barrels; struck May 13, 1866; owned by Charles E. Hart, G. R. Griffin, and others. Mr. Charles E. Hart, of Rochester, N. Y., is also part owner of the Morrison Farm, and is actively engaged in developing territory in this section.

Well "No. 235"—"Giastacutis"—was struck March 16, 1866; depth 623 feet, and is pumping 75 barrels per day; owned by C. S. Whitney, Esq., and others.

Well "No. 236" is producing 60 barrels; owned by Ferris & Sweet.

Well "No. 245" is now producing 80 barrels. Col. Roberts increased the production 40 barrels per day by his torpedo; depth 625 feet; owned by Z. Ferris, Esq., of East Hamburg, N. Y.

Well "No. 249" was struck——, and is producing 50 barrels; owned by C. E. Hart and G. R. Griffin, of Rochester, N. Y.

Lease "No 270"—"Old Maid Well"—was struck in June, 1866; produced 60 barrels; owned by O. M. Moore and Charles E. Hart, of Rochester, N. Y., who have dealt very extensively in the developments of this and other territory. Mr. Hart is also largely interested in the Morrison Farm which has lately given good indications of being valuable territory.

Well "No. 271;" depth 653 feet; produced 75 barrels; struck June, 1866; owned by Messrs. Palmer, D. Bullock and C. W. Smith.

Well "No. 272;" depth 635 feet; struck in February, 1866; produced 20 barrels; will torpedo this well soon; is owned by Z. Ferris.

Well "No. 280;" depth 635 feet; first sand 282 feet; 54 feet thick; second sand 445 feet; 8 feet thick; third

Acre Lots; $\frac{3}{4}$ of the oil and wood privilege, by S. A. Barnes & Co.

sand 563 feet ; 40 feet thick ; struck in April, 1866, and produced 40 barrels per day ; owned by M. A. McDonald, Dr. M. C. Egbert and W. W. Marshall.

Well " No. 281 " is producing 80 barrels and is owned by M. Cooks, Esq., of New Haven, Conn., and others.

Well " No. 282 " was struck April 20, 1866 ; depth 662 feet ; first sand 335 feet ; 57 feet thick ; second sand 455 feet and 7 feet thick ; third sand 512 feet and 46 feet thick ; produced 50 barrels per day, and is owned by M. A. McDonald and others,

Well " No. 284 " was struck February 5, 1866 ; depth 710 feet. This well was torpedoed by Colonel Roberts with beneficial results, and is producing 40 barrels daily ; owned by George K. Anderson.

Lease " No. 303 " is owned by E. B. Sankey ; not yet developed.

Well " No. 304 " was struck in March, 1866, and is producing 40 barrels daily ; owned by Messrs. Springer & Loder. First sand 150 feet ; second sand 465 feet ; third sand 630 feet ; total depth 666 feet.

Well " No. 305 " was struck April 26, 1866 ; depth 659 feet ; producing 30 barrels daily ; owned by Geo. K. Anderson, Esq. The well was torpedoed by Colonel Roberts and greatly improved.

Well " No. 306 " was struck May 12, 1866 ; depth 640 feet ; producing 50 barrels daily ; owned by Geo. K. Anderson.

Well " No. 307 " was struck August 25, 1866 ; depth

634 feet and is producing 15 barrels per day. Another well is in progress; present depth 380 feet; owned and superintended by H. B. Kreitzer and others.

Well "No. 312" was finished in September, 1866, and is producing 40 barrels per day; owned by C. Meyer and M. C. Martin.

Well "No. 315;" depth 315 feet; struck July, 1866, and is producing 15 barrels per day; owned by M. Brownson & Co.

Well "No. 314" was struck in April, 1866; depth 680 feet; producing—— barrels per day; owned by J. H. Carothers.

Well "No. 330" was struck ——; depth 702 feet; producing 25 barrels per day; owned by Evans & Gordon, who are heavily interested in wells on the John Bennehoff Farm. The original lease was given to H. McWalters.

Well "No. 331;" depth 719 feet; producing 30 barrels per day; struck in May, 1869 W. W. Marshall & Co. are the owners, and R. C. Coulter is the Agent.

Well "No. 436;" depth 735 feet; struck in February, 1866; produced 30 barrels per day; now not producing; Colonel Roberts will torpedo this well soon; is owned by W. M. Cole and M. B. Greene; original lease given to H. M. McWalters, Esq.; superintended and controlled by James Adams.

Well "No. 337;" depth 738 feet; struck in March,

1866; producing 15 barrels per day; a torpedo will be placed in her; owned by W. M. Cole and M. B. Greene.

Well "No. 348;" depth 768 feet and is producing 30 barrels per day; struck in June, 1866; owned by J. S. McCray, W. W. Marshall and R. C. Coulter.

The "Myers Leases" embrace eleven lots on the Central Petroleum Company's Farm and are owned by C. Meyer, J. R. Ford, W. H. Breeden, and others, of New York, and M. C. Martin and Edward Fox, of Petroleum Centre, and are managed by M. C. Martin. There are seven wells finished and producing, together about 175 barrels daily. The first well is "No. 1," on lease "No. 142," and was finished September 28, 1865. It produced about 60 barrels per day, flowing for several months, but during the winter diminished to about 10 barrels per day. A torpedo was placed in her which increased the production to about 35 barrels per day.

Well "No. 2," on lease "No. 150," was struck Oct. 20, 1865, and has been producing one year, doing as much as when first struck.

Well "No. 3," lease "No. 199," was struck about the 20th of November, 1865, and the average production will amount to 50 barrels per day.

Well "No. 4," on lease "No. 200," commenced testing in January, 1866, is now producing about 25 barrels per day.

Well "No. 5," on lease "No. 201," was struck February 1, 1866, and is producing about 40 barrels per day.

Well "No. 6," on lease "No. 182," was completed in April, 1866, and has had an average production of about 35 barrels per day.

Well "No. 7," on lease "No.——," commenced testing in July, 1866, and proves a very remunerative well.

This company of enterprising operators and owners of the above leases have been very successful, having paid the stockholders twenty-five per cent. of the capital back in cash, besides accumulating property—*i. e.*, engines, tanks, houses, and machinery of all kinds, in good repair—to the amount of twice the capital invested; also paying the Government tax last winter to the amount of more than twenty-five per cent of their capital.

The "Breedon Leases" embrace the entire working interest in the four leases. Nos. 313, 332, 333, 334, and 1-4 free interest in the oil produced from leases "No. 155 and 180." They are owned by W. A. Breedon and C. Meyer, of New York, and M. C. Martin, Edward Fox, and others, of Petroleum Centre.

Their first well, on lease "No. 334," was finished about the 1st of February and is doing finely.

Well "No. 2," on lease "No. 332," was tested in the latter part of February, and "No. 3," on lease "No. 333," in April, 1866.

From these three wells, (and their free interest in 155 and 180,) they have paid back the original capital and have but just commenced operations.

Well "No. 4," is now being drilled on lease "No. 313," and is down about 550 feet.

"Hap Hazard Well" was struck in the Spring of 1865, and produced 25 barrels; owned by P. Pearsall, Capt. Hull and others; now not producing.

GERMANIA OIL COMPANY.

Colonel Otto Harrhause is agent, and operating on the McAlmott Farm, Wildcat Hollow, adjoining the Central Petroleum Company's Farm. They have several wells producing.

"No. 1" flowed two years; now being pumped; is 602 feet deep.

"No. 2" is 502 feet in depth.

"No. 3" is 555 feet in depth. The Colonel has placed one of his own torpedoes in No. 3, which was supposed to be a dry hole, but is now producing and is a good well. Colonel H. is also interested in No. 5, Hyde & Egbert Farm.

The "Eagle" well was struck in 1863 and flowed 80 barrels per day.

The "Eagle No. 2" pumped 35 barrels per day, now doing nothing.

"Young Hickory" was struck on the 4th of July, 1865; flowed 100 barrels yellow oil per day; now pumping about 40 barrels per day.

THE FIRST FIRE.

At or about 10 o'clock Saturday morning, September 2d, 1865, a disastrous fire occurred at the Anderson wells on this farm. It is said to have originated from a spark being struck from the sand stone while workmen were engaged in excavating a bed for a new oil tank. The gas igniting, instantaneously an oil tank near by was wrapped in flames. This tank contained 300 barrels of oil, and two tubes were discharging oil into it at the time from the Anderson wells. The occupants of the engine houses had a narrow escape, a sheet of flame darting with lightning speed into the buildings as soon as the fire caught. Their clothes were burned but they sustained no serious injuries. The engine houses and one derrick of both wells were entirely destroyed, and both engines ruined. When the tank of the Anderson well burst, the oil ran down the ravine in a perfect flood of fire and communicated with well No. 2, destroying the engine, engine house and derrick, and tanks containing 200 barrels of oil. No. 2 is about forty feet below the Anderson wells. The desolating stream poured still further down the ravine, and in one moment of time the new refinery of Timothy Collins, located about ten rods from well No. 2, was on fire. It was rapidly consumed, including 300 barrels of refined oil. Mr. Collins' crude oil being tanked at a distance escaped destruction. From this point the furious element swept down to the

S. A. Barnes & Co. have leases near National well on Pithole Creek.

B. S. oil refinery, one hundred feet below the Collins refinery, burning up two tanks containing about 50 barrels of crude oil. At this stage of its progress there was imminent danger of the destruction of the town. Considerable alarm was felt by the citizens of Petroleum Centre for the safety of their lives and property. The people turned out in great numbers and labored vigorously in erecting dams across the ravines. Finally, after constructing six or seven successive embankments of stones and mud, the downward progress of the devouring flames was arrested at a point within ten feet of well No. 11. belonging to the Central Petroleum Company, where there were 1000 barrels of oil. The fire was thus subdued and held in check at 2 o'clock in the afternoon after raging with uncontrollable violence for a period of four hours.

The spectacle is described as fearfully magnificent, resembling the flash and roar of artillery. A dense column of smoke rose a thousand feet in the air and attracted attention for many miles around.

The Anderson wells belonged entirely to George K. Anderson, Esq., and they were the result of his first investment. Well No. 2 belonged to the Central Petroleum Company. The loss was estimated as follows: George K. Anderson, \$3,000; Central Petroleum Co., \$3,000; Mr. Collins, \$5,000.

GEORGE K. ANDERSON.

In referring to Mr. George K. Anderson as an operator, the author speaks from personal knowledge of that gentleman, and of his connection with the oil development of this region. No individual or company have accomplished an equal amount of labor within the same period of time, or have conducted their business with more intelligence, system and devotion

Mr. Anderson arrived at the Tarr Farm in October, 1864, and assumed charge of the Story Farm Oil Co., as general Superintendent, in which responsible position he continued until July, 1865, at a salary of \$3,000 per year. Conceiving the idea of doing business for himself, he tendered his resignation to his employers, which they declined to accept. Without severing, therefore, his connection with this company, he commenced his individual enterprise by sinking two wells upon lease No. 198, purchased by him of the Central Petroleum Co., taking to himself the entire working interest. Both of these wells were successful, and Mr. A. in consequence, found himself the possessor of a handsome income of \$1,400 per day.

This success was followed by others of the same kind, his developments on new leases turning out equally favorable. At one time his producing wells were twelve in number, but he still continued sinking additional ones. Having on hand the general paraphernalia for

boring, he is able to sink wells at a comparatively low figure, ordering the articles required from eastern markets by the quantity. Mr. Anderson's wells at present number over thirty, while the additional number in which he is interested exceeds a hundred. His prudent management and extent of his operations enable him to sink wells at one-half or one-fourth the cost that it does parties operating on a small scale. Already his individual disbursements exceeds \$200,000, and his outlay for other \$100,000, aside from the thousands he has paid for taxes and general improvements. The wells which he owns and in which he is interested have already yielded a product of 160,000 barrels. In bank, railroad, coal mining and oil stocks, he has cleared over \$50,000 this year. His employees are all practical men and command the highest wages. His boss drillers, Jacob and John Iffs, are pioneer oil miners; men who were acquainted with the best methods and latest improvements in their difficult business; they each receive a salary of \$3,500 a year for their services, in addition to a comfortable cottage and its appurtenances—gas and fuel free of rent. Mr. Anderson's office, situated upon the table-land north of Petroleum Centre, is a fine structure, and cost for building and furnishing \$7,000. The surrounding grounds are neatly turfed and terraced and enclosed by a chain fence. Colonel J. Adams Vera has the general supervision of the office and enjoys the comfortable salary of \$2,500 per year. His position is no sinecure

and only a person of systematic industry and powers of rapid execution could discharge his duties. The Col. is also favored with a furnished house besides his salary by Mr. Anderson. A carpenter and machine shop, with forge and engine, is situated between the office and dwellings. Mr. George Lamb, a practical mechanic, is the superintendent of this department and enjoys a salary of \$2,500 per annum. Another dwelling house is in course of erection for A. C. Hawkins, Esq., the General Agent and Superintendent. Mr. Hawkins has in his employ over 125 men at present, (the number was at one time 200,) each man receiving his wages every Monday night. Mr. H. is the owner of several producing interests which is paying him a handsome dividend. A shrewd, careful financier, enjoys the confidence of Mr. Anderson to the fullest extent and receives a salary of \$3,500 per annum, which he well earns by the faithful discharge of his responsible duties. Mr. Anderson's career is full of encouragement to young men. His capital at the commencement would all have been absorbed in a sixteenth interest in a dry hole at the present prices, but with the accession of fortune he has not contracted selfish or parsimonious habits. He has been liberal in his donations to public objects, religious, social and municipal, and has always extended a helping hand and a word of cheer to young men in pursuit of employment.

F. PRENTISS,

Of New York city, and one of the Directors of the Central Petroleum Company, was at one time owner of the Wash. McClintock Farm, and now one of its most extensive stockholders. He was among the first to emigrate here for the purpose of developing oil territory. In each undertaking success crowned his efforts.

R. R. TAYLOR.

In January, 1866, Mr. Taylor erected two large tanks on the banks of Oil Creek and in the centre of this city, and the capacity of each is 2,500 barrels, making connections with pipes from all the principal wells on the Stevenson and McClintock farms. During the months of September and October, 1866, his daily shipments amounted to about 4,000 barrels of oil per day. He is one of the most successful oil shippers in this section. The large platforms on the banks of the creek are constantly filled with oil barrels, and boats are constantly moving up and down the channel. By. Whited, an active and energetic agent, is also interested with Mr. Taylor in the buying of oil from the different wells on Oil Creek. For a long time Messrs. Taylor & Whited have controlled the shipping of most of the oil from this point.

H. McWALTERS

Is one of the most energetic operators in the oil regions, and one of the early pioneers, and at one time secretary to George K. Anderson, Esq., and interested in several of the Anderson wells; also interested in several leases which he procured from the Central Petroleum Company. He has been very successful in all his undertakings.

W. M. COLE AND M. B. GREENE

Are among the early operators upon the Central Petroleum Company's Farm. Having procured several valuable leases they proceeded to develop them. The "Highlands," in close proximity to the famous wells on the Stevenson Farm, are at this time eagerly sought after, and the bonuses demanded were of a high figure. Messrs. Cole & Greene secured two leases, Nos. 336 and 337, and struck two wells. Mr. Cole is heavily interested in many producing wells, and for his admirable business tact has been amply rewarded.

A. G. MEYERS,

One of the oldest operators upon the creek—a gentleman who has dealt extensively in developing oil territory and sinking wells. On the Widow McClintock Farm he has been interested in the following wells: The famous "Painter well" "Georgianna," "Fernan-

dina," and the "Merry Mack." On the Rynd Farm he was interested in the "Yam Hill," "Idaho" and "Iron-sides;" on Cherry Tree Run in the "High Daddy." On Bennehoff, Stevenson, Central Petroleum Company's and Egbert farms, he is widely known as having em-planted a derrick and sunk the irons deep into the earth for the golden fluid. In Pithole, Sugar Creek, Hickory and Cherry Tree Run he has also been interested. But few operators are so familiar with the "lay of the land" as Mr. Meyers. He has quietly operated and finally settled in Titusville, doing an extensive business.

JOHN A. COUTANT,

One of the firm of Smith & Coutant of Pithole and Petroleum Centre, an enterprising gentleman is largely interested in many of the largest wells in this vicinity. Messrs. Smith & Coutant have branch offices in Titusville, Pithole and all other prominent cities in the oil regions. While Pithole was rejoicing in the multiplicity of business, the firm became interested in many of the best leases, realizing a large fortune.

Z. FERRIS' REFINERY,

Bennehoff Run, Central Petroleum Company's Farm. Mr. Ferris, as partner in the firm of Baker, Ferris & Parker, commenced the business of oil refining on the Central Petroleum Company's Farm. After several

Business of companies attended to by S. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

months of a flourishing business, the refinery was destroyed by fire. Mr. Ferris immediately sought other quarters to rebuild, and in May, 1866, he bought a large building, erected his stills and commenced business near the mouth of Bennehoff Run. His refinery is one of the largest on the creek, capable of running off 150 barrels of refined oil per week. His refinery is supplied principally from the crude he receives from his own wells on the Central Petroleum Company's Farm, recently resuscitated by Colonel Roberts' Torpedo.

THE AMERICAN OIL WORKS,

Of Crane, Thacker & Rankin, commenced the business of refining oil in April, 1865. It is one of the largest oil refineries on the creek; the capacity of the stills are forty-seven barrels, of which there are four, and capable of running off 425 barrels of refined oil per week. There are some companies operating upon the creek as oil refiners having greater facilities, still the dividends declared proportionately do not equal those of this firm. The refinery has been burned several times, though its owners are still doing a flourishing business.

BARTLETT & NEWTON.

The large refinery owned by these gentlemen was erected in December, 1863, and is one of the oldest refineries on the creek. The refined oil which is shipped from this manufactory is not excelled; the

gravity of it is that of the best. They are capable of running off several hundred barrels of refined oil per week. Their daily shipments are large and for the past three years have done an extensive business.

PETROLEUM CENTRE,

Viewed in a commercial light, is, in all probability, unequaled by any other petroleum mart, Titusville not excepted. In regard to its facilities for transporting the products of adjoining lands—of its great fields of labor and wealth, and its general resources—its peculiar central location, its superior advantages over other towns adjacent as producing territory, volumes might be written.

It is not the intention of the author to enter into any disquisition upon the different stratas, the formation of shales, fissures, belts, channels, and their courses ; nor to perpetrate any geological profundities in the shape of theories.

In the year 1860 the first well was struck. Previous to this the place bore no name but the Wash. McClintock Farm. Two old farm houses in a wild, desolate spot, hemmed in by rough, craggy, barren mountains, at whose base wound a small, sluggish, dirty stream known as Oil Creek.

The McClintocks appeared to have lived here for many years, following the usual agricultural pursuits. they plodded on from year to year and generation to

generation in ignorance of the caverns of wealth underlying their fields and pastures. In an old graveyard on the table land north of the business portion of the city and near the present site of the Catholic Church, are four or five tombstones bearing the name of McClintock, some of which date back as early as the middle of the seventeenth century. This was, no doubt, the family burial ground.

After the "oil upon the waters" was found in different springs above and below this farm, operations were begun to secure it for other than medicinal purposes, for, indeed, the Indians and early settlers used it only for physical complaints.

The farm was purchased in 1859 by a party of gentlemen from New York for a few hundred dollars, and the developments at once commenced. Being nearly or about half way between Titusville and Oil City, the company gave it the name of Petroleum Centre, while their organization was chartered as the Central Petroleum Company of New York. The Maple Shade Oil Company of Philadelphia, partial owners of the Hyde & Egbert Farm, joined with the Central Petroleum Co. in erecting a substantial bridge across the creek, which divided the two farms. This was completed in the fall of 1863, and proved a decided accommodation to every person doing business at that point, for in the Spring and Fall the water is generally so high that fording is impossible. Before the bridge, crossing the creek on

Franklin street in Titusville, was built, gentlemen doing business on the north side were often compelled to go eleven miles before they could cross the creek. When we consider the condition of the highways in *oildorado* during these wet seasons, it will appear no pleasant undertaking, particularly to pedestrians, for, indeed, in those days a comfortable vehicle could not be obtained.

Unlike Pithole, the growth of Petroleum Centre has been slow and sure and established itself against all opposition from other sources. Her wells, generally, have been of long duration—mostly pumping—and paid a good dividend to the owners. Many instances are cited in another part of the book. The place has been almost entirely free from fires, there never having occurred but two, viz: the old Evans House, in the Spring of '65, and The Old Homestead, in August, 1866. It speaks volumes for the prudential management of its citizens, and it is worthy of remark that while Titusville, Pithole, Plumer, Oil City, Shaffer, and, in fact, nearly every other place of note, has suffered severely, Petroleum Centre has escaped this destructive element.

In June, 1864, the United States Telegraph Company established an office in the upper story of the Old Homestead, occupied principally by Bishop & Eldridge as commercial brokers, exchange agents, etc., theirs being the first regular office opened in town, aside from the Central Petroleum and Maple Shade Company's. In September, 1864, the United States Company opened a

telegraph office at the Rochester House, then a very small affair, but "first class," and doing an immense business. Petroleum Centre at this time had a population of about 500 permanent inhabitants, though the floating population often made it 1500.

In October, 1864, the citizens succeeded in getting a Post Office established, when Clinton Robson, Esq. was appointed to fill the position of Postmaster. Doing business as a hardware merchant, Mr. R. delivered the mail from a little shanty attached to his store on Washington street, to the anxious ones who would await its distribution outside, often standing in the mud nearly to their boot-tops. In April, 1866, the position so well filled by Mr. R. was resigned, and Mr. H. E. Blackmon, of Buffalo, by a unanimous request of the citizens, was appointed in his place. Mr. B. had the office removed nearly opposite to the Wash. McClintock House, where it still remains.

In the early part of 1865 the citizens secured the services of Rev. J. J. Marks for religious worship, and subsequently the Rev. E. A. Squires also settled there and divine service was generally held in an old refinery building, or a rough board shanty used for steaming barrels, south of what is known as the "hog back" and near the crystal spring. In pleasant weather this substitute for a church answered very well, but when inclement the storm beat in through the cracks on all sides and through the shaky old board roof. Many, in

fact the greater portion of our business men, had sent for their families by that time. The Central Petroleum Company generously donated the land for three churches and steps were immediately taken to erect the buildings by subscription. To-day the Centre has a Presbyterian, Methodist and Catholic edifice. Having no borough charter the people could not be taxed for public improvements but gave voluntarily and freely.

During the past summer the Central Petroleum Co. erected an iron tank capable of storing 10,000 barrels of oil, situated in close proximity to the Farmers' Railroad, where large and commodious platforms are being erected by the company.

All the sink-holes have been filled, and a thorough system of drainage instituted. The streets are all filled with stone and gravel to the depth of several feet, and, being graded, presents a fine appearance, together with fine sidewalks, the officers of the Central Petroleum Co. defraying one-half of the expenses.

In September, 1866, the American Express Company opened an office here under the management of E. C. Richardson. Heretofore all the express business had been done at Shaffer Farm, now Dennison. The merchants, producers, or other parties ordering per express, were compelled to await high water in the creek or risk having their packages burst open or otherwise injured by careless teamsters who they employed to go for them. The completion of the Oil Creek Railroad from the East

and the Farmers' Railroad from the West, with the establishment of offices here, obviates this. These two roads are benefiting and improving the Centre every day, and, though late in their completion, are still appreciated.

The United States Revenue Office was opened here during the Spring of 1866. Mr. E. J. Ross is the Assistant Assessor. Faithful in the performance of his duties he soon won the esteem of the citizens.

In September, 1865, Esquire Thomas Donaghy, a Justice of the Peace at Plumer, was induced to remove his office to the Centre. Establishing himself at the foot of Washington on Main street, the "squire" attends to the duties of his new official position in a manner worthy of commendation. He has already made a host of friends, while his style of dealing out "justice" appears to give general satisfaction.

While speaking of the laws and its officers it is appropriate that mention be made of Deputy Sheriff Peter Kenney, who came to Petroleum Centre in 1864, from Philadelphia. For many years Mr. Kenney served in the regular army, doing most effective service in whatever department he might be placed. After he left the service, with the very best recommendations, he went to Philadelphia and was engaged by the Mayor of the city as a special policeman and detective. That he gave entire satisfaction and rendered efficient services there, his vouchers from the Mayor and other prominent and

influential men, can testify. In the Fall of 1864, Dr. Egbert sent to Philadelphia for a trustworthy and responsible man to act as watchman and detective for the Maple Shade Oil Company. Mr. K. was requested to accept the position and did so. Shortly after his arrival he received the appointment from Franklin of Deputy Sheriff. Almost up to the present time he has been the only officer in Petroleum Centre, and has been engaged in ferreting out several notorious offenders and effecting the arrest of culprits.

THE FARMERS' RAILROAD.

This road was commenced about the 1st day of June, 1866, and completed in October, 1866. Its terminus is at Petroleum Centre and Oil City, a distance of about eight miles. The difficulties encountered in constructing this road were of no ordinary character, but it was prosecuted with an energy and perseverance which yielded to no obstacles. Beginning at Petroleum Centre on the Central Petroleum Company's Farm, the road passes through the Dalzell, Story, Tarr, Blood, Rynd, John McClintock, Buchannan, (Rouseville.) Ham McClintock, (McClintockville,) Clapp, Graff, Hassan & Co.s Farms, terminating at Oil City. The Reno & Pithole Railroad intersect the Farmers' at Rouseville. The Cherry Run Branch of the Farmers', extending to Plummer, also diverges at Rouseville. The advantages to be derived from this new and important line of travel are

beyond all calculation. The passenger traffic is large and remunerative. Oil City, at the mouth of Oil Creek, offers diverging lines of travel by rail and steam, and the city will derive no mean advantages from this new link of commerce with the heart of the oil regions.

They have in course of erection several fine depots at each point or station; also large and commodious freight houses nearly completed. The officers are gentlemen long experienced in railroad business. That the Farmers' Railroad will therefore prove a remunerative investment to its owners is too obvious to require argument.

W. H. Coffin, President; Major J. W. Hatfield, General Superintendent; Messrs. J. W. Hatfield, E. Garland and Bayard Taylor are the conductors, gentlemen of long experience in railroad matters, and well qualified for the positions. Since the completion of this railroad to this point, great improvements and alterations have been made in the appearance of nearly every building in the city.

BUSINESS OF PETROLEUM CENTRE.

G. W. Allen's House was the former homestead of G. W. McClintock, who, at the breaking out of the oil excitement, erected a fine building now known as the Rowe House. The old homestead underwent many changes and improvements. It passed into the hands of several gentlemen who realized handsome fortunes. During the Spring of 1864 Mr. Allen purchased and

Acre Lots; $\frac{3}{4}$ of the oil and wood privilege, by S. A. Barnes & Co.

made a decided change in the appearance of the building. It became necessary to make additions in order to accommodate the many guests. At this time it was the only hotel and of course did a large business. Each year changes and improvements are made and Mr. Allen has realized a snug sum for his arduous labors of the past year. Mr. Elisha Grover is the Superintendent of the house and conducts its affairs in a creditable manner.

The Rochester House was erected in December, 1864, by James Bellows and Samuel Tibbets, of Rochester, N. Y. They conducted the house for about one year, doing a most lucrative business. During the latter part of 1865, Mr. Tibbets sold to Mr. B., who made many additions and improvements as the business demanded. In August, 1866, Mr. James McCray, an old resident and operator, also proprietor of the National Hotel at Plumer, purchased the entire building and furniture for \$6,000. Mr. A. O. Farnham, a gentleman of much experience, (formerly of the National Hotel, of Rochester,) was at once associated with the house. His popularity as former superintendent, under Mr. Bellows, loses none of its cast under the present management but rather adds materially to his large list of friends. The encomiums of a highly satisfied public testify to this fact better than any words from our pen possibly could. The services of Mr. Frank Cole have been secured. Mr. C. is widely known and only magnifies the acquisition

of guests to this popular resort for oil merchants, producers, operators, buyers, shippers, visitors and transient generally.

Belding House, (formerly the United States Hotel,) at one time under the popular management of Messrs. McDonald & Paddock, now under the control of W. J. Belding. This magnificent hotel was erected in October, 1865. Its dimensions are as follows: 40x100, four stories high, including a basement 40x30; office 30x35; dining room 40x50; fifty rooms and accommodations for 150 guests. A large and finely furnished bath room and barber shop are attached to the house. The hotel is fitted up with all the modern improvements, and is centrally located in close proximity to the two railroads which terminate at this point. It has for a long time enjoyed a high degree of popularity. It is one of the finest hotels in this section and well worthy the reputation it bears.

The Keystone House was erected in May, 1864, by Thomas Bryan, Esq., of Erie, Pa., and opened by Daggett & McIntyre. The house was closed during the winter of '65 and '66, but was opened by Charles W. Topliff in May, 1866, as a hotel on the European plan, called the Woodbine. The Woodbine has become a popular resort for oil dealers, finding in the proprietor a gentleman possessing all the good qualifications necessary to procure him friends and make him a genial companion. He has fitted up his establishment in a

style peculiar to himself, which presents a fine appearance and where all the delicacies of the season are offered to the public.

Rowe House, the former homestead of Wash McClintock, pleasantly situated and in close communication with the railroad, enjoys a share of popularity. Many improvements have been made on this building which now presents a fine appearance.

The American Hotel was erected in the Fall of 1865, by J. R. Barnes, of Nunda, N. Y. This house opened on a magnificent scale by the proprietor, whose gentlemanly qualifications soon drew together the eclat of the city. The hotel became popular with oil men who, with their families, enjoyed the home-like appearance of the house. During last winter, at the solicitation of the citizens, the proprietor opened his house for a few select parties which gave great satisfaction.

The Lake Shore House was erected in October, 1865, by Messrs. Kennicott & James. It is three stories high and will accommodate one hundred guests; is pleasantly located on the table land north of the business portion of the city. It also affords a fine view of the large wells. The selection of this site by the proprietors speaks well for their sagacity and foresight as the railroads, just being completed, will pass right in front of the house.

The Petroleum Centre House was erected some time during the Summer of 1865, and opened by Hall & Gail

as a hotel. Mr. Gail sold his interest during the Spring of 1866 to Mr. A. H. Moulton, of Buffalo, who, in connection with Mr. Hall, refitted and remodeled the house, and now are endeavoring to afford convenience and comfort to guests, and has become quite popular with the traveling community.

Messrs. Hall & Moulton have opened a large grocery house immediately adjoining the hotel which affords great convenience to our citizens in this neighborhood. Mr. Moulton also removed his extensive stock of saddlery here and as a clothier for horses, cannot be excelled in this or any other section.

Franklin House No. 1 was erected in January, 1865, by Thomas Frothingham, Esq., of Rochester. In the Summer of 1866 Messrs. Rich & Fuller opened the house, after thoroughly revising and refitting. These gentlemen are well qualified to keep a hotel, not being novices in the art. They understand every requirement of the guests and are prompt in furnishing comfort to those who sojourn with them.

The Taylor House, under the supervision of Mr. J. Taylor, is well conducted. Its proprietor understands the wants of his guests in every particular and is always ready and willing to extend comfort and convenience to all who visit him.

Mr. J. A. Sherriff, one of the oldest inhabitants upon this farm, arrived here in the Summer of 1862, and has kindly furnished us with many items of interest pertain-

ing to the town in its infancy—when it consisted of but three houses. At the above time, in connection with his brother, Mr. J. B. Sherriff, of Pittsburgh, Pa., entered into business under the firm of J. A. Sherriff & Co. hardware dealers, at their present stand, foot of Washington street. The facilities for getting supplies at this time were anything but desirable. The nearest railroad depot was at Union Mills, thirty miles distant, and the nearest point for steamboat navigation was at Oil City, seven miles by road; their only means of getting their supplies from these points being by teams, over roads that cannot be described, and such as must be seen to be appreciated. We might here remark that not much improvement has been made in this direction, as there are no public or legalized highways or turnpike roads in this valley for many miles in either direction except the one crossing at this place from Cherry Tree to Plumer. Messrs. Sherriff & Co. have added much toward the rapid advancement and growth of the city, each year making improvements in their buildings and contributing largely to any new enterprise that would aid in the advancement of business. Their large establishment for the sale of hardware can hardly be excelled in the oil regions.

Winsor & Brother opened an extensive hardware store in the building owned by J. O. R. Wilson, Esq. Messrs. Winsor & Brother purchased the buildings of Mr. Wilson in January, 1866, and from their extensive

Interests in producing wells for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

manufactory and store in Oil City shipped a large stock of hardware, tubing, etc., to this city. They soon secured a large trade and are doing a flourishing business, giving perfect satisfaction. They can be classed among the most enterprising merchants of the place. Messrs. W. & Brother also own large stores at Pithole, Franklin and Reno.

Messrs. Robson & Co., hardware dealers, erected a large building in April, 1864, and selected a splendid stock of hardware and commenced business in May. The demands for hardware at this time were heavy and were it not for this branch of business, operators would be obliged to suspend operations upon their wells for days in order to procure a valve or some other little requirement. Messrs. Robson & Co. have a splendid stock of goods and are keeping constantly on hand every article required in and about a well. Mr. James W. Hanford is associated with Mr. Robson.

George H. Clark's Central Machine Works were erected during the Fall of 1864. This establishment is widely known throughout the oil regions, and has proved to be immensely remunerative to the proprietor. The manufacture of drilling tools is his speciality. None but the best machinists are employed and the "Clark tools" are considered second to none. The foreman of the shop is Mr. W. E. Ross, an energetic man and a useful assistant to Mr. Clark.

M. M. Monnt commenced the manufacture of drilling

Wells put down by contract by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

tools in the Spring of 1865. The "Mount tools" are too well known for me to indulge in any remarks concerning them. In the manufacture of "jars" he has no superior. Mr. Mount is also interested in some of the producing wells upon the Stevenson Farm.

Markell & Crittenden's land office was one of the most magnificent offices on the creek, but recently destroyed by fire. It was opened by the above firm early in the Summer of 1865, dealing extensively in buying and selling oil and developing oil territory. Messrs. Markell & Crittenden were also agents of the celebrated Wood & Mann and Washington Iron Works engine. These gentlemen were the first to open a commission office at Petroleum Centre.

E. B. Sankey, civil engineer and surveyor of the many farms in this vicinity, has an office with Messrs. Marshall & Elliott, lawyers, where can be found maps and plans of the oil regions. The most correct maps of the oil regions were traced by Mr. Sankey, who is interested in oil developments on Stevenson, Bennehoff, and other farms. A long acquaintance with the localities of the farms has enabled him to correct'y lay out territory advantageously to those desirous of developing.

A. D. Cotton's bank was opened in May, 1865. The bank enjoyed a successful course until the failure of Calver, Penn & Co., of New York. Mr. Cotton was universally respected by all in this section, and the

closing of the bank created a profound sensation. Capt. Compton was with Mr. Cotton, and much respected.

Messrs. Bissell & Co. opened a banking house in the Central Petroleum Company's office soon after the closing of A. D. Cotton & Co.'s bank. They soon gained the confidence of the business men. Mr. Bissell is widely known and heavily interested in the Central Petroleum Company, and one of the first—in fact, *the* first—to develop territory in the oil regions. M. C. Martin, agent of the Central Petroleum Company, is one of the directors of the bank. The banking office was soon after removed to the building formerly occupied by A. D. Cotton & Co. A new and splendid brick building is rapidly approaching completion at the foot of Washington and Main streets, owned and erected by the bank. When completed Messrs. Bissell & Co. will remove their office to this building. Mr. J. E. Ray is cashier, and a gentleman well qualified for the position. The Telegraph and Post Offices will be removed to this building when completed. The “deposit line” of this bank stands at a handsome figure, and the amount of New York Exchange and Government Bonds daily bought and sold is very large. The New York correspondents are James Bishop & Co., a firm that stands second to none in this country.

Messrs. Marshall & Elliott, lawyers, came here when the town claimed but few inhabitants, and opened law offices. They soon associated themselves together and

opened a splendid office over Bissell & Co's bank. They have a large practice and are also extensively engaged in developing territory. Mr. Elliott owned one-eighth in the celebrated Baltic well on the Stevenson Farm, lease 27. Both gentlemen are also interested in quite a number of other producing wells.

Mr. A. S. Haver, attorney at law, opened an office and commenced the practice of law in January, 1866. By his gentlemanly bearing and fine legal qualifications he has won the admiration of our citizens who have given him a large practice. His thorough collegiate education and long practice makes him familiar with every point of the law.

J. H. Hitchcox, of the firm of J. Carter & Co., extensive dealers in gents' furnishing goods, at Titusville, removed a large stock of goods to this point in April, 1866. A splendid store was erected and the wants of the public are fully supplied from the immense stock of goods which they keep constantly on hand. Mr. Hitchcox is quite popular with the young men, who were formerly obliged to seek "America" ere their wants could be supplied.

Messrs. Morton, Longwell & Wicker, the owners and publishers of the *Pithole Record*, a valuable sheet, removed a portion of their large stock of type to this city and under this management opened an extensive job printing office in June, 1866. The establishment is meeting with perfect success; the citizens are giving

Driving Pipe bought and sold by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

them great encouragement, and the style of the work sent out of their office is indeed creditable. They are expected to remove their whole stock soon and publish a daily paper. Under such favorable auspices—with the hearty approval of the citizens of Petroleum Centre—their undertaking cannot fail of being a decided success. Will, energy and enterprise is everything, and the “no surrender,” formerly so well developed in their characters, will carry them safely through.

Harry Da Bell, agent for F. D. Hamilton & Co., of Titusville, opened a branch store at this point. By his gentlemanly bearing he won the respect of the citizens and secured their patronage. Mr. S. Stanley, of the firm of F. D. Hamilton & Co., recently removed this store to the fine building recently erected by J. W. Johnson, Esq., and from their establishment in Titusville removed a large stock of goods to this city.

The Metropolitan Theatre is one of the largest buildings in the city. It was completed in May, 1866. Its dimensions are 40 feet front, 75 feet deep, three stories high, and cost over \$6,000; it was built by Messrs. Quirk & Schutt. Two magnificent stores on the ground floor were completed presenting a fine appearance. The citizens had long desired a respectable place of amusement, and through the proprietors the best stock company that could be procured were engaged, and the people enjoyed the drama for a period of several months.

Messrs. J. & M. Barrett, wholesale dealers in brandies,

S. A. Barnes & Co. have leases near National well on Pithole Creek.

wines and ales, opened a New York branch store here in August, 1865. Their store is well known throughout the oil regions. They confine their business exclusively to the wholesale trade.

Miller & Pfeiffer erected a building in February, 1866, a creditable affair: A jewelry store, belonging to the same firm, in which can be found a full assortment of gold and silver goods, occupies a portion of the establishment, while the balance is used for a restaurant.

Schwarz & Brother, wholesale dealers in liquors and cigars. A large trade has crowned their efforts. They erected a fine building in May, 1865, which they immediately stocked with a splendid assortment of goods. At the time of their opening they done an immense business, having no competition. Since then other branches have been opened but they still retain their share of the patronage and are doing a very flourishing trade.

Smith & Haas, two enterprising Buffalo merchants, erected a fine building during last Winter and selected a large stock of goods from Buffalo and New York. These merchants are enjoying and commanding all the trade of this city and other places of note in the oil regions. They are in every way worthy of the patronage they are the recipients of.

Mr. George O. Clark, also of Buffalo, N. Y., supplied his elegant store from the Buffalo manufactures of

confectionery and periodicals. Mr. Clark has secured a large trade and is well worthy of the patronage he receives.

Alex. Van Valen, of Rochester, N. Y., opened a large grocery house here in the Spring of 1865, in connection with S. Pellett, also of Rochester, selected the first lot of groceries ever brought into this market. The house enjoyed a good reputation and Mr. Van Valen monopolized the trade. During the Summer of 1866 he sold out his entire stock and removed to Rochester to engage in other business and enjoy the fortune made here.

George W. King, of Rochester, N. Y., one of the early pioneers, erected a fine building, nearly adjoining the Rochester House, and from his place of business all are supplied with the real necessities of life. His store was erected in July, 1866, and the business of the town increasing, he, in connection with his sons, immediately erected another large and commodious building opposite the American Hotel. It is to such enterprising men as Mr. King that Petroleum Centre owes a great share of her popularity. He still drives a good business at both institutions.

R. C. Coulter erected a building in the Spring of 1866 and filled it with a fine and select stock of groceries. Being near the terminus of the railroad, and at the east end of the city, he will soon see he has settled

himself in a good locality where business will be greatly improved within the next six months.

Mr. John Schuyler, another of the early visitors to Petroleum Centre, added much toward the wealth and appearance of the town by the erection of a fine building in which he opened a first-class restaurant. Mr. S. has gained a host of friends and a wide-spread popularity. Success has crowned his efforts to please, and his improvements, from time to time, stamp him as one of those "go in and win" men who cannot fail to make money.

The large and commodious livery of Burns & Rose was erected by George Custar, Esq., of Titusville, in October, 1865, and by him was kept until February, 1866, when he sold to Messrs. Burns & Rose who have a fine stock of riding horses, and as a sale and boarding stable is indeed superior to any in this section. There are several other fine liverymen who are doing a good business, among whom are B. A. Bragg, Mr. Stanley, and John White.

During the Spring of 1866, Mr. George T. Reed erected a fine building in the central part of the city and placed therein a stock of drugs, &c., which surpasses anything of the kind yet offered to the public, and as a druggist and chemist Mr. Reed has no superior in this section. In fact we may say that more business is done at his establishment than at all the other druggists in

town. A gentleman in every respect and appreciating his business, the professionals patronize him extensively.

An elegant building was constructed by Mr. Jerome B. Aikin in March, 1866, which cost over \$6,000. An elegant billiard hall was finely finished and four splendid tables placed therein. His elegant rooms are visited by all and he is entitled to the patronage received.

Miles & Jarvis, manufacturers and dealers in cabinet furniture, picture frames, window shades, looking-glasses, carpets, &c. Miles & Jarvis keep constantly on hand all kinds of furniture and can supply the citizens with everything in that line on the shortest notice. They have recently purchased the large stock of furniture formerly owned by J. W. Johnson & Co. They monopolize the trade and are receiving support from many of the country towns.

Smith & Evans commenced business in April, 1866, as lumber merchants. Many of the derricks which have been erected upon the different farms in this locality were put up by this firm, and they are credited with the erecting of some of our first houses. A large lumber yard, centrally located, is filled with the best lumber, and at the most advantageous rates the citizens can be supplied.

BOYD FARM.

This farm, now a portion of Petroleum Centre, comprises about seventy-five acres directly opposite the mouth of Bennehoff Run. James Boyd gave the lease of this farm for a term of 199 years to Sarah McClintock and William Patterson for one-third royalty. In 1859 they sub-leased to various parties. In 1860-'61 developments were made; the most successful well was the "Tanglefoot," which was drilled to the depth of 200 feet, and it was reported to have been doing at one time at the rate of 200 barrels per day. The price of oil at this time was quoted at a low figure which retarded developments on the farm, and the ownership of the "Tanglefoot lease" was divided between twenty-five or thirty individuals. It was impossible for all to agree and the property was forfeited in consequence of non-working.

In September, 1863, Mr. Boyd sold his "fee" of the land to V. M. Thompson, and Woods & Wright. The latter party found they had been euchred in the purchase, the sub-leases not falling back to the "fee" but to the lessors when forfeited.

In December, 1863, Woods & Wright purchased of Patterson & McClintock the original leasehold interest. V. M. Thompson sold his one-half of the "fee" and one-half of the oil to the Commercial Oil Company in 1864.

The "Tanglefoot" well was struck in January, 1861,

and flowed 125 barrels before the tubing was placed in in the well. She was struck at the depth of 200 feet or in the second sand rock.

The "Altona" well belonged to the Altona Oil Company, afterwards called the Burkowitz Oil Company. It was struck May 30, 1861, and produced about 50 barrels per day, being tubed to the depth of 190 feet. She was soon after sunk to the depth of 482 feet but yielded nothing and she was then abandoned.

Oil was selling at \$2.00 per barrel and after the striking of the McClintock, Empire and Buckeye wells, the price of oil was reduced to 25cents per barrel.

The Superintendent of the Boyd Farm is Captain D. Henderson. Mr. H. Lehr was also interested in this farm.

In July, 1866, improvements were commenced toward building up a large city. It is one portion of Petroleum Centre, and the two farms will, in time, be connected by a bridge crossing the creek from the Oil Exchange Hotel to Petroleum Centre, at the mouth of Bennehoff Run. The first building of note erected was the Oil Exchange Hotel, by Lewis, Greene & Co., its present proprietors. It is *the* institution of the Boyd Farm. It is situated at the Oil Creek crossing, between Funkville and Petroleum Centre, and at the mouth of Bennehoff Run. Its dimensions are 47x85 feet, three stories high besides the basement, and has sleeping accommodations

for one hundred guests. It is constructed in modern style from plans made by one of the proprietors, and is furnished in an expensive and attractive style. The proprietors are Messrs. Lewis, Greene & Co. Mr. Lewis is an old resident here, and Mr. Greene is from Elmira, N. Y. The cost of the hotel approximate \$35,000. The foundation is of hewn sand stone, the superstructure of frame work, and is one of the handsomest hotels in the country.

THE OIL CREEK RAILROAD

Was completed to this farm in July, 1866. Immediately upon the extension of the road to this point, large and substantial buildings were erected by the company. The following is a list of those who leased platform ground and erected extensive warehouses, huge iron tanks, and elegant offices: R. H. Boughton & Sons, Brown, Fertig & Co., (iron tanks;) James H. Bunting, A. W. Coburn, Frank Fowler, J. H. Tennent & Co., Davis & Co., Robbins, Jacobi & Co., (iron tanks;) H. B. Coburn, D. H. Cady, C. L. Wheeler, W. H. Abbott, Oleophene Oil Company, New York; Dunham & Co., D. Brown & Sons, Bennett & Black, Parker, Myers & Co., Empire Line, Downer & Co., Woods & Wright, Northern Light Company, Fatterson & Brothers, (iron tanks;) Milligan & Co., (iron tanks;) J. S. Cleveland, (iron tanks;) Joseph Bartlett & Co., and many others.

But a few weeks ago this territory looked deserted

Try us once, and you will again. S. A. Barnes & Co.

and forlorn enough—to-day it presents a far different aspect. The owners of this now desirable property, Messrs. Woods & Wright, were always sanguine of its business prospects and confident of its ultimate success. To day all is life and business activity. Being the terminus of the Oil Creek Railroad and directly opposite Petroleum Centre, business must flow in this channel, yet the Farmers' Railroad, which terminates at the south end of the city is a strong competition, notwithstanding a great amount of freight flows into the hands of the Oil Creek Railroad Company. The Superintendent, H. F. Sweetzer, is one of the oldest and most experienced railroad men in the State. Operators on the creek are indebted to him for many acts of courtesy. To say that the road under his management is well conducted would inadequately express the general public satisfaction. R. H. Boughton is the agent at its Petroleum Centre terminus, and in that is recognized as an energetic and faithful officer and popular with the patrons of the road. The officers of the road are S. W. Steward, President; H. F. Sweetzer, Superintendent; B. F. Ewing, Chief Engineer; J. F. McPherson, Treasurer; F. A. Phillips, Assistant Treasurer; W. R. Wilter, Auditor and General Ticket Agent; H. D. Chapin, General Freight Agent; Page Craswell, Paymaster; Frank Black, Superintendent Locomotive Department; J. Williams, Superintendent Car Department; Henry Dwyre, Superintendent Telegraph and Train Department;

Engines! A few more left. S. A. Barnes & Co.

John Reynolds, Superintendent Track. The Conductors on the road are G. W. Parsons, H. R. Stout, W. Gleason, F. W. Badger, George Vail, M. Richards,, G. Gadley, H. Greenfield and Charles Sweetzer, gentlemen well acquainted with railroad business, and by their courteous bearing have the respect of the traveling public. The large warehouses and freight departments, under the direction of Mr. Boughton, require a large and efficient clerical force. F. A. Hall, Esq., is chief clerk; W. A. Pullman, foreman of warehouses; J. C. Hare, yard master; J. Q. Streater, foreman of oil yard. The elegant depot, just completed, adds greatly toward improving the appearance of the place. The ticket office is under the management of Benjamin Wilkins. The bridge, which is rapidly approaching completion, connecting the Central Petroleum Company's and Boyd farms, will prove of immense value to the business community and the traveling public.

HYDE & EGBERT FARM.

This famous oil producing territory, which comprises forty acres, was purchased by Dr. A. G. Egbert of Alex. Davidson, in the Fall of 1859, for the sum of \$2,600. The first developments were made during the Summer of 1861, at which time the Old Point well was struck. This well produced about 40 barrels per day for the period of eighteen months.

The excitement was intense when the Graff & Hasson

well was struck in July, 1862, and produced 800 barrels of oil per day. She was drilled through the third sand, with no indications of success, and its owners deemed it advisable to go fifty feet deeper, when she commenced flowing at a furious rate. It was destroyed by fire and burned for several days ere it could be extinguished. It was finally smothered, when it underwent a process of cleaning out and retubing. It then produced but 300 barrels per day, and at that rate it flowed for three years.

The famous Jersey well was struck in May, 1864, and flowed 400 barrels per day for over a year. During three months, in the Fall of 1864, it yielded a profit to the company of \$208,000. Oil at this time was selling for \$14.00 per barrel.

The renowned Coquette well was struck October 26, 1864, and from the depth of 519 feet produced 600 barrels. It ceased flowing in July, 1865, and was pumped, producing 60 barrels per day, having been "tapped" by the Olive Branch well. During the Spring of 1866, and after the fire which swept over the farm, she was pumped, and produced 300 barrels, and still produces about 150 barrels per day. Dr. M. C. Egbert was interested in this farm, and wells and from interests which he held in the Coquette well, he realized a fortune. Dr. A. G. Egbert sold a portion of the land interest to the Philadelphia Maple Shade Company for the sum of \$250,000. W. W. Goodwin, Esq., is the Superintendent of this company and under his manage-

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ment the production of this territory has been greatly increased. He has reduced everything pertaining to oil wells down to a system, and the general appearance of the farm has been much improved by his management and personal supervision. J. M. Carrell, Esq., of Philadelphia, is Assistant Superintendent, and has been interested in several of the wells. He is a gentleman possessing all the qualifications necessary for the prosecution of that work. This company has recently erected a 12,000 barrel iron tank near the banks of the creek for the storage of oil.

Charles Hyde, of Titusville, became interested in the farm and now controls a large portion of the land interest, which is ably superintended by D Kahle, Esq. Dr. M. C. Egbert's agents are J. H. Wright, of Boston, Mass., and G. V. Boyles, of New Castle, Pa., and are the most extensive operators here.

The celebrated Maple Shade well, on lease No. 10, was struck in August, 1863, being sunk under the superintendency of Mr. Jacob Nathan, of Pittsburgh, Pa., the principal owner of this lease. This well, upon being tested, produced 1,000 barrels per day for several days, until the bursting of the seed-bag, but being retubed she produced 1,100 barrels. In the early part of 1864 the New York Maple Shade Oil Company, of N. Y., purchased one-half the working interest in this well and lease. They also purchased in leases No. 11, 12 and 13, (adjoining leases.) Upon the striking of this well, in-

terests in wells demanded a high figure. Mr. Nathan paid \$5,000 for one-sixteenth working interest in the Maple Shade lease No. 10, exclusive of any interest in the Maple Shade well, then producing largely. Mr. W. M. Cole, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was appointed Agent of the New York Maple Shade Oil Company in the Spring of 1865. Mr. Cole immediately commenced active development of the territory belonging to this company. He sunk three wells, one on No. 10, called Maple Shade No. 2; one on No. 11, which flowed 150 barrels, and was known as the Bernheimer well, named after the President of New York Maple Shade Company, and known as one of the earliest and most extensive operators on the creek. Mr. Cole also sunk a well on No. 12 which produced about 30 barrels per day. Also the wells on lease No. 15, the Gimlet and Bucktail, both of which produced largely for a time. The great fire of March 28, 1866, entirely destroyed the property of the New York Maple Shade Company.

The Maple Shade leases, Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13, have recently been sub-leased by the company to Mr. Cole, the former superintendent, and he will immediately proceed to resuscitate and work the wells, taking advantage therein of all the benefits accruing from new inventions, such as slide pumps, patent valves, Morahan's sand pump, Colonel Roberts' Torpedo, and Snow's liquid pump. May he be successful in his attempts, and succeed in getting back out of these old wells some of the stamps

lost by him in sinking new ones. Paul A. Davis, Jr., was also interested in the developments of this and the Stevenson Farm.

The Siverly Run Oil Company have several producing wells on this territory under the superintendency of Captain Francis J. Keffer, which are all producing finely. Mr. Keffer has sunk many wells and is a fortunate owner of some large producing wells. Captain Keffer was formerly an officer in the 1st California Regiment under General Baker. He was captured by the enemy in one of the many battles in which he participated. After a long imprisonment, he was one of the fourteen officers selected to suffer death in retaliation for certain pirates which the United States Government had condemned to death, but was soon after paroled and exchanged. He was appointed Provost Marshal of Annapolis, and held that office for two years.

The following is a list of the wells upon the farm and their production. The average depth is about 565 feet.

Keystone No. 1 was struck in September, 1863, and produced 40 barrels per day.

Keystone No. 2 was struck in October, 1863, and produced 60 barrels per day.

Keystone No. 3 was struck in November, 1863, and produced 100 barrels per day.

The Yankee produced 60 barrels per day when struck. The Turtle produced 75 barrels per day.

The Eagle produced 60 barrels per day—now producing 30 barrels per day; she was struck in October, 1863.

The Rhinoceros was struck in December, 1863, and produced 60 barrels per day.

Eagle No. 3 was struck in February, 1864, and produced 30 barrels per day.

The Porcupine produced 25 barrels per day.

The Kepler well was struck in June, 1864, and produced 25 barrels per day; now not producing.

The Jersey well was struck in May, 1864, and produced 300 barrels per day; now not producing.

The Olive Branch was struck in October, 1864, and produced 40 barrels per day; now said to be producing largely.

The Keystone well was struck in November, 1864, and produced 50 barrels per day.

The Burd well is producing 30 barrels per day.

The wells on the Olive Branch lease are all producing finely.

The Burlington well is doing about 60 barrels.

The Hollister well is doing about 15 barrels.

The Rhinoceros well is superintended by Lewis Egbert, a brother of Dr. M. C. Egbert. Mr. Egbert is extensively engaged in developing territory on Pioneer Run and other sections, and is identified among the most enterprising young operators in this vicinity.

Well No. 7 was struck in January, 1865, and is pro-

ducing 60 barrels per day ; owned by J. R. Frick, Dr. Egbert and J. H. Tennent.

These wells all produce oil under 44 degrees gravity. The company have erected four twelve hundred barrel tanks on the bank of the creek, and have them housed in. Two of these tanks are solely used for the Coquette well, and the other two for the remaining wells. These tanks will be connected with the platforms on Boyd Farm by means of a pipe.

The Maple Shade Oil Company and Mr. Chas. Hyde are erecting a 10,000 barrel iron tank on this farm. G. V. Boyles has also erected a large iron tank.

FIRE.

The disastrous fire which swept over this farm March 31st, 1866, proved the most destructive to well owners and operators of any previous conflagration which ever occurred in this vicinity. Nearly forty acres of territory was covered with blackened and charred remnants of engines, houses, derricks and tanks. The fire originated at the Burlington well from a gas tank which exploded with a loud report. The flames communicated with the oil receptacle of the Coquette well, in which 8,000 barrels of oil were stored. It then swept with fearful rapidity to the creek, consuming everything in its track. In its mad career upon the water it enveloped many large boats filled with oil ; they were torn loose from their moorings, floating down stream at the rate

of five miles an hour, thus presenting a scene which words are inadequate to express. Taking the fire at its height, when the whole farm was enveloped in this burning sea of oil, it could only be compared to Dante's description of the mouth of Pandemonium. With the terrible excitement of the people, and the rushing to and fro of the masses, all of whom seemed rushing from "the fate to come," almost impressed us with the idea of its reality. The city of Petroleum Centre was saved by the desperate exertions of a few brave men. The total loss was approximated at \$200,000.

DR. M. C. EGBERT.

This gentleman has been a peculiar favorite of dame fortune, and towards him the goddess has not yet proved fickle. Continued successes have crowned his efforts in seeking after the greasy fluid, and territory in which he is interested is ever found productive.

As one of the owners of the celebrated Hyde & Egbert Farm, he is extensively known as an "oil man," and the Skinner Farm bids fair to add to his reputation. He is universally respected by those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. A gentleman of culture and refinement, liberal in his views and actions, he is deserving of all the benefits he has received. Although now devoted to mining interests he is a scholar of rare

S. A. Barnes & Co. have leases near National well on Pithole Creek.

attainments, and ranks second to none in the profession to which he was bred.

THE McCRAY FARM.

The McCray Farm, adjoining the celebrated Egbert Farm, is owned by J. S. McCray. A few years since Mr. McCray refused several hundred thousand dollars for this territory. The first well sunk was on lease No. 1, and was sunk to the depth of about 570 feet, giving no indications of success. It was tested and then abandoned. Captain Daniel Jones thought that with proper testing the well would prove a success, and through his energies, in connection with Dr. M. C. Egbert and H. N. Payne, the farm is now producing several hundred barrels per day. The abandoned well, under the supervision of Captain Jones, was thoroughly cleaned out and after properly testing, this well and others upon the lease are producing 300 barrels per day.

The McCray wells, Nos. 1 and 2, are producing 125 barrels; owned by J. S. McCray, Dr. Egbert and others.

McCray well No. 1 is 560 feet deep; producing 75 barrels per day.

McCray well No. 2 is 570 feet deep; producing 50 barrels per day.

Pamelia well is 570 feet deep; producing 200 barrels per day.

Mount Moriah well is 750 feet deep; producing 60 barrels per day.

But a small portion of this large farm is developed, but active operations are being commenced, and the wells are of long duration.

THE DALZELL FARM.

The Dalzell Farm adjoins the McCray Farm and comprises 106 acres, owned by Messrs. Dalzell & Ewing, of Titusville, Pa. They have several fine producing wells and operations upon this territory are being resumed with vigor.

The Castle well, on lease No. 29, was struck December 16, 1865, and produced about 100 barrels per day. It has diminished to some extent but is still producing finely; owned at one time by the Castle Brothers and A. W. Coburn, of Titusville, and others; now owned by Dr. M. C. Egbert.

Well No. 98 was struck December 12, 1865; depth 550 feet; producing about 25 barrels per day; controlled by George K. Anderson.

The Chimney well produced 500 barrels per day; now doing nothing.

A well was sunk on this farm by John Dalzell, Esq., of Titusville, in April, 1861; depth 365 feet; produced 200 barrels per day; now doing nothing.

One of the most remarkable phenomena presented to the notice of oil men in this section was exhibited in

the sinking of a well on the Dalzell Farm. At the depth of 89 feet a crevice of oil was found, the well was tubed, and, on being pumped, commenced to flow at the rate of 300 barrels per day. The well continued to flow for three or four days, the product gradually decreasing. This is unparalleled ; wells have flowed from sand rock, but this well was not within 100 feet of the depth of the first sand. This well, at the time, attracted a great deal of attention, though when sunk to the third sand rock, proved non-paying. It belonged to W. C. Chapin, V. F. Jewell and W. M. Cole, who had leased from the Dalzell Oil Company.

THE SHAFT.

The project of sinking a shaft was devised by D. W. Davis, Esq., in 1865. The location where the enterprise commenced was on the Dalzell Farm, in close proximity to the large wells of the Egbert Farm. They reached the depth of about ninety feet, when a portion of the stockholders refused to be further assessed and operations have been suspended. The plan of operations was to sink a perpendicular shaft, 7x17 feet, to the depth of 500 feet, or to the third sand rock. After reaching the first sand rock it was proposed to drift off from the main shaft, at a right angle, to the veins and crevices. Had the enterprise been carried out as described by Mr. Davis in his work, success would have been certain, and at the same time would have imparted valuable information as to the stratas of rock and the course of the oil veins.

WARNER FARM, BENNEHOFF RUN.

This portion of Bennehoff Run was discovered and become noted for its valuable mineral resources in 1864. Yet previous to this time developments were extensively carried on at the mouth of the run, in close proximity to the creek. This territory on the creek was abandoned after many attempts to produce oil, and many wells were sunk, but they produced nothing.

Messrs. Painter, Loufer & Co., in March, 1863, purchased of Geo. Warner and wife their farm, consisting of thirty-seven acres, for the sum of \$12,000. They immediately commenced operations and sunk two wells. The first one was located on the upper end of the farm, on lease No. 9. The manner in which this well was sunk, and the difficulties which beset every attempt to complete it, were discouraging indeed. It was finally "kicked" down to the depth of 400 feet, using as a lever a spring-pole. Imagine the difficulties surrounding an attempt to sink a well in this manner, requiring weeks of arduous labor. The tools used to sink the well were but 400 pounds in weight. After reaching this depth an engine sunk the well to to the depth of 725 feet, only to meet unlooked for discouragements, termed a "dry hole." Mr. Painter, undaunted by the failure of the first well, immediately, in another portion of the farm, commenced the erection of a derrick for the purpose of trying again. Well No. 2 was situated on lease 27, and he sunk this to the depth of 500 feet. Similar incidents retarded the progress of the well in its downward tendency. After reaching the above depth becoming discouraged, he abandoned the wells and deemed the territory worthless.

Mr. Clark, in making a purchase of some interests belonging to Mr. Painter in different localities in the oil regions, this farm was included, and the purchase price received was \$40,000.

Mr. Clark did not commence operations on the farm and it remained in his possession until September, 1864, when it was sold to the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company for the sum of \$100,000 cash. The company was formed with the following officers: P. C. Harmon, President; James McMasters, Secretary; O. M. Beech,

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Treasurer ; William Spence, Superintendent ; W. J. Runcie, Assistant Superintendent. In September, 1866, the following new officers were elected : George A. Osgood, President ; John Crombie, Vice-President and General Superintendent ; C. F. Timpson, Treasurer ; James McMasters, Secretary ; George A. Osgood, John Crombie, C. F. Timpson, W. G. Lord, C. H. Delemater and C. J. Turner, Trustees ; J. Hooper, Superintendent ; J. Nihoof, Assistant Superintendent.

Immediately upon taking possession of this "dry territory," the Bennehoff Rur Petroleum Company commenced operations. The first attempt was upon the well put down on the farm by Mr. Painter. An engine was procured, with tools, cable, tubing, and all the necessary paraphernalia requisite for the sinking of a well, and being placed upon the lease, No. 57, operations were commenced. The well was soon sunk 79 feet deeper, making her 579 feet in depth. Their efforts were fruitful of a glorious success, and on the 22d of March, 1865, the "Lady Harmon" was struck and flowed at the rate of 100 barrels per day for fifteen months.

The success of this well stimulated operators, and leases were eagerly sought after and taken up, but the company wisely reserved many of them.

Mr. E. C. Getty, an energetic, enterprising young man, was one of the fortunate ones in securing a lease, and on lease 31 he located a well. After many mishaps and inconveniences which he was subject to in sinking the second successful well upon the farm, he succeeded in getting it down. During the test he was not long kept in suspense, for when struck it flowed 150 barrels per day. Mr. Getty immediately sunk another well, and in this he was successful. He also, at a later day, commenced operations upon another well which is not yet completed.

The third successful well put down on this territory was the Spence well, named after the superintendent, situated on lease No. 21. It was sunk to the depth of 605 feet. The first sand rock was found to be 20 feet thick ; the second sand rock 20 feet thick, and the third sand rock 42 feet thick. It was struck in June, 1865, and produced 125 barrels per day, flowing at that rate for 11 months.

The Story well was the next well which succeeded in striking the fluid, at a depth of 610 feet, and situated on lease No. 20. The sand rock was found to be of the same thickness as on lease No. 21. It was struck July 1, 1865, and flowed 100 barrels per day and is still producing.

The Bodine well, on lease No. 22, is owned by the Philadelphia Mining and Petroleum Company, of which Mr. H. W. Faucett is the Superintendent, and one of the principal owners, was struck in July, 1865, at a depth of 595 feet. The thickness of the sand rocks are as follows: First sand 10 feet; second sand 6 feet; third sand 40 feet. It produced 160 barrels per day for nine months and is now pumping.

The California well, on lease No. 23, and owned by Frothingham & Nowlen, was struck September 1, 1865, at a depth of 578 feet; it flowed 50 barrels per day and is now pumping.

The next well put down was the William Clark well, on lease No. 30, and owned by the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company. It was sunk to the depth of 617 feet; struck September 20, 1865, and is producing 170 barrels per day.

A well was struck September 28, 1865, on lease No. 32, owned by Thomas Frothingham, Esq., of Rochester, and others; she flowed 130 barrels per day, at the depth of 609 feet.

Another well was struck upon the same lease in July, 1866, and produced 100 barrels per day. The lease is owned by J. Harkins, T. Mallery, S. Ross, T. D. Copp, N. B. Pulver, A. H. Cheeny, J. J. Osborn, James Moore, R. C. Coulter and T. Frothingham.

The Phil. Sheridan well was struck March 6, 1866, on lease No. 32, at the depth of 570 feet, and has produced up to last August, 44,000 barrels of oil; owned as above.

Mr. E. Vaughn is agent for the Harkins lease, No. 32, and is a gentleman well qualified for the position. He has been interested in many wells and has proved himself to be a very successful operator, commencing when the oil excitement was first noticed.

Mr. Vaughn, in connection with Mr. J. W. Early, of the Sherman well notority, were the first to introduce the method of burning gas for fuel. It is now uniformly used in the oil regions, saving to

producers many thousand dollars annually. In September leases were held at a high figure, and were sold at from \$1,000 to \$10,000 bonus, with one-half the royalty.

The Boundbrook well, on lease No. 33, was struck November 20, 1865, at a depth of 576 feet, and flowed 600 barrels per day. In March, 1866, it stopped, and Colonel Roberts placed a torpedo in her and she is now producing 100 barrels per day. The owners of this lease are William Spence, A. Coddington, W. J. Runcie, and others.

The McMurtry well was struck in October, 1865, and produced 100 barrels per day.

The bonus paid for lease No. 33 was \$9,000.

The Coddington well, on lease No. 34, was struck November 26, 1865, at a depth of 567 feet, and produced 100 barrels per day; owned by William Spence, A. Coddington, W. J. Runcie, and others.

The Runcie well, on lease No. 24, was struck at a depth of 578 feet, in December, 1865; flowed 170 barrels per day; owned by W. J. Runcie, W. Spence, and others. The bonus paid for this lease was \$6,000.

The Western Union Telegraph well, on lease No. 25, was struck December 20, 1865, at a depth of 519 feet, and flowed 180 barrels per day. The original lease was given to W. Spence and O. R. Wilson. The bonus paid for this lease was \$7,000.

In December, 1865, a well was struck on lease No. 33 which produced 150 barrels per day; owned by William Spence, J. O. R. Wilson, A. Coddington and W. J. Runcie.

Another well was struck in January, 1866, upon the same lease, and flowed 300 barrels per day; owned as above.

A well was struck on lease No. 24, January 27, 1866, and flowed at the rate of 200 barrels per day, and is still producing largely. It is owned by William Spence, A. Coddington, J. O. R. Wilson and W. J. Runcie.

A well was struck on lease No. 23 the latter part of February, 1866, and produced about 70 barrels per day; owned by Frothingham & Nowlen.

Well No. 3 on lease No. 32 was struck in July, 1865; depth 590

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feet, and is producing 100 barrels per day; owned by the Harkins Oil Company and others.

Mr. J. W. Early, the former agent of this lease, was among the early operators upon this territory, and was largely interested in the developments of this farm. He had long been interested with the Harkins Oil Company, and while in that capacity rendered most efficient service.

The Philadelphia well No. 2, on lease No. 22, Warner Farm, was tubed March 13, 1866, and on the 15th the pump was started. A few moments only elapsed until the water was partially exhausted; she commenced throwing gas and oil with great force. She increased to all the valves would pass, about 200 barrels per day, and on Saturday the valves were drawn and she commenced flowing with such force that the oil was thrown some fifteen feet above the top of the derrick. She flowed at the rate of 800 barrels per day. The owners of the well and lease are the Petroleum Mining Co. Mr. H. W. Fancett is the Superintendent, and owns a large interest. Mr. Fancett is sinking a number of wells on his leases and thus far has been successful in every attempt. He has long been operating upon the creek and is classed among the most successful operators here. He is sinking a well on lease No. 3, Bennelhoff Farm, on the hill immediately back of the famous Philadelphia well on the Warner Farm. The peculiarity of this well is the size of the hole which is nine inches in diameter, giving it nearly three times the surface which it would have with a five inch hole, but it is much more expensive to drill. It is now down 500 feet and progressing rapidly and will soon be completed.

Well No. 3, on lease No. 29, is being tested with a good show; owned by E. C. Howard, of Rochester, N. Y.

On lease No. 35 there are three wells, two of which produce about 60 barrels per day. Well No. 3 is now being sunk and is owned by Frothingham & Nowlen and W. A. Loder, of Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. W. J. Ruacie has two new wells, recently struck, on lease No. 33, resuscitated by the use of torpedoes and W. B. Snow's patent pump, with liquid packing, one of the most useful pumps ever invented. Mr. Ruacie was among the early pioneers on this

S. A. Barnes & Co. have leases near National well on Pithole Creek.

territory, and was formerly connected with the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company. He is interested in many of the largest wells, paying him a handsome dividend. R. W. Redfield, formerly with the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company, is interested in the hill developments of the John Bennehoff Farm. Wells are being sunk very rapidly on this territory rising back east toward Pioneer Run, and in every instance they meet with perfect success.

Lease No. 26 was struck some time since and is producing 100 barrels per day. It had formerly produced but 50 barrels per day, when W. B. Snow, of the Harley's Pipe Company, fitted a working-barrel of his own invention to the well which increased the production as above. This new working-barrel does away with the leather valves, and produces what is called a liquid packing, never wearing out. It is looked upon as one of the most important inventions which has yet been made to increase the production of a well. The pump, or working barrel also increased the production of well No. 34 from 40 to 100 barrels per day, and No. 51, Northern Light Company, from 10 to 30 barrels per day.

THE BENNEHOFF RUN HORSE RAILROAD

Was constructed and completed in December, 1865, by J. V. Criswell & Sons. The length of the road is one and one-eighth miles, and cost \$20,000. The road is so constructed that the oil cars are sent down from the wells on the run, requiring only a brakeman to guide them. It has a rising grade and when the cars are filled with empties on the banks of the creek they are hauled up by four mules. The barrels are easily filled and replaced upon the car and sent down the inclined track to the creek.

HARLEY'S TUBING TRANSPORTATION.

In February, 1866, Henry Harley, Esq., constructed a line of iron pipes from Bennehoff Run to Shaffer for the transportation of crude petroleum. The cost was about \$35,000, and their capacity is rated at 2,000 barrels per day. The oil is forced by steam engines of 28 horse power, with Siamese pumps, a distance of over two miles.

This is the cheapest method of transportation ever devised. It involves no repairs to machinery and costs only the clerk hire, requisite to continual operation. It is the most successful enterprise of the kind ever attempted in this section. The Superintendent is W. B. Snow, formerly chief engineer of the Pithole & Miller Farm Pipe Company, and being a practical mechanic he has aided greatly in perfecting the pumping. Mr. Snow is also the inventor of the working-barrel which has gained such a wide repute among oil producers.

FIRST FIRE ON BENNEHOFF RUN.

The first great fire on this run occurred January 30, 1866, and proved disastrous to the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company. The following is a statement made by the owners and sufferers :

Getty well, number of barrels of oil destroyed.....	2,500
Harkins.....	2,000
Warner Farm, lease 33, No. 1 and 2.....	3,500
Coddington.....	1,000
O. M. Beach.....	600
Clark.....	1,950
Total.....	11,550
Oil destroyed.....	\$57,659
Destruction of tanks, derricks, engines, engine houses and derricks.....	30,000
Total.....	\$87,750

The last great fire on the run occurred July 7, 1866, and destroyed twenty-one wells and 16,000 barrels of oil. The fire originated from a flash of lightning which struck an oil tank belonging to the Runcie well, on lease No. 1. Immediately an immense sheet of flame shot heavenwards and in a few moments the tank bursted scattering the liquid fire in every direction. The flames communicated with the large oil receptacles of wells adjoining, and in the twinkling of an eye the whole run was illuminated by this disastrous conflagration. The Superintendents, one and all, battled with the flames and exposed themselves to great danger in endeavoring to check the progress of the fire. The wells of the Philadelphia Mining Company were only saved by the strenuous endeavors of

their efficient Superintendent The following statements were made by the superintendents of the different leases :

	Oil destroyed.	Daily product.	Loss.
	bbls.	bbls	
Rnucie, two wells.....	1,500	222	\$ 8,500
Telegraph, two wells.....	1,500	200	10,000
Lady Harmon.....	1,500	50	7,500
Beach.....	600	50	4,000
Getty, two wells.....	800	100	5,400
Phil. Sheridan, two wells..	4,000	300	18,000
Lease 33, two wells.....	1,800	200	10,400
Lease 34, two wells.....	800	50	5,000
Lease 35.....	400	50	5,400
Lease 38, 39, 40.....			6,000
Lease 49.....	600	50	4,000
Lease 50.....			400
Lease 43.....			4,500

Total..... \$99,500

The total loss of oil, engines and paraphernalia of all kinds exceeded \$110,000.

BENNEHOFF RUN NORTHERN LIGHT CO.

The territory which was purchased of John Stevenson by this company in 1865, comprises 39 and 88-100 acres, west adjoining the Warner Farm. George W. Steele, President; George M. Root, Secretary and Treasurer, and C. J. Steele is the Agent and Superintendent. Through the active endeavors of Mr. C. J. Steele, an old pioneer oil miner, this territory has been rapidly developed, and many of the wells which have been struck recently are producing finely. Mr. Steele has sunk several wells for the company and in each undertaking has proved himself a practical operator. The following is a list of the wells with their production, etc. :

Well No. 36 was struck in July, 1866, and produced 50 barrels per day; depth 560 feet; owned by W. S. Woodford and others.

Well No. 41 is testing with a fine show; depth 555 feet; owned by R. W. Redfield and Major Fay.

Well No. 40 (Forty Thieves) was about completed when the tools were stuck and the well abandoned. The owners, R. W. Redfield

Interests in producing wells for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

and Major Fay, are sinking another well on the same lease which is testing with a good show. Mr. Redfield was formerly connected with the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Company, and is well versed in oil matters. He has about completed a well on lease No. 7, John Bennehoff Farm, east toward Pioneer, and on a direct line with the large wells of the Stevenson, Bennehoff, Pioneer, and the famous Sherman and Noble wells. Mr. Redfield has been very successful in his stock operations, and his interest in wells are paying him a good dividend.

Well No. 39 is testing; owned by Messrs. Sayers & Betz.

Well No. 43 was tubed with the tools at the bottom of the well. It produced nothing; owned by T. A. Burrowes.

Well No. 2 was sunk by the company and produced 25 barrels per day.

Well No. 3 flowed 50 barrels per day when struck; owned by the Bennehoff Run Northern Light Company.

Well No. 51 produced 30 barrels per day when struck; owned by Spence & Harmon.

Well No. 53 is producing 10 barrels per day.

Leases Nos. 57, 58, 59, 60, 61 and 62 were taken by McIntosh & Brother, who are preparing to operate upon them. They are also owners of leases No. 12 and 13, Ocean Oil Company Farm.

Well No. 63 is nearly ready for testing; owned by the company.

Leases Nos. 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 76 were taken by W. Spence, P. C. Harmon and O. M. Beech.

No. 77 and 78 were taken by the Bennehoff Run Petroleum Co.

Well No. 50 was struck in September, 1866; depth 560 feet, and is producing 50 barrels per day; owned by T. A. Burrowes and others. The success which has attended Mr. Burrowes throughout his operations can be attributed to substantial rigs, good wages, and personal attendance to his interests.

Well No. 2, on lease 50, was struck September 18, 1866, at a depth of 560 feet. After a few days testing she yielded 40 barrels per day and is still producing.

The Agent of these wells is M. Brownson, an old pioneer and a

Do you want to buy or sell an engine? Go to S. A. Barnes & Co.

gentleman who has figured conspicuously in the development of territory in the oil regions.

THE OCEAN OIL COMPANY'S FARM,

Otherwise known as the Stevenson, comprises 152 acres. It was purchased by Messrs. Phillips Brothers, in the Spring of 1865, of John Stevenson, for \$35,000. They formed a company, known as the Ocean Oil Company, and immediately commenced operations to sink wells. The first well sunk was the Ocean well which was struck in August, 1865, the depth of which is 694 feet, flowing 300 barrels per day. It flowed nearly a year and a half and is now pumping 20 barrels per day. When this well was struck the stock rose in Philadelphia from \$12 to \$32, creating much excitement. The leases were rapidly taken up when the first strike was made.

The company secured the services of Charles H. Page, Esq., who was at that time interested in several of the producing wells in this vicinity. He is a gentleman of large experience in developing oil territory. Mr. Page controls the selling of the oil and general financiering for the company, and in that position has rendered invaluable services. As an operator he has been very successful in all his speculations.

S. M. Hamilton is the General Superintendent, and is well qualified for the position. He has been for a long time extensively engaged in sinking wells, and for his energy has been well rewarded. J. S. Fisher is Assistant Superintendent, a faithful and efficient officer. The following is a list of the wells, together with the depth, production and ownership:

Well No. 1 was struck in November, 1865; depth 750 feet; total production 750 barrels; now not producing.

Well No. 2, John Sayer well, is 700 feet deep; struck in June 1865; producing 75 barrels per day. There are two wells on this lease—one of them testing; owned by Sayers & Betz.

Well No. 12 was struck in December, 1865, and is 740 feet deep; producing 12 barrels per day.

Well No. 3 is producing 40 barrels per day; owned by George K. Anderson.

Well No. 13 was struck in June, 1866 ; depth 700 feet ; producing 10 barrels per day.

Well No. 15 was struck in June, 1866 ; depth 750 feet ; producing 25 barrels per day.

Well No. 15½ was struck July 17, 1866 ; depth 739 feet ; producing 70 barrels per day.

Well No. 16 was struck in April, 1866, and produced 300 barrels per day ; depth 780 feet. 18,500 barrels have been sold from this well. It is owned and controlled by G. V. Boyles, and others.

Well No. 17 is producing 75 barrels per day ; owned by George K. Anderson.

Well No. 18 was struck in December, 1865, and produced 50 barrels per day ; depth 760 feet. There are two other wells on this lease which are producing about 50 barrels each ; owned by C. H. Page, P. A. Davis, Jr., and others.

Well No. 19 was struck in December, 1865 ; producing 50 barrels per day.

Well No. 20 was struck in June, 1866 ; depth 775 feet, and produced 75 barrels per day, now producing 10 ; owned by Patterson & Dickey.

Well No. 21 (Arctic) was struck in January, 1866 ; produced 300 barrels per day, total production 24,769 barrels. It is now producing 30 barrels per day ; depth 775 feet ; owned by Patterson & Dickey, who are testing another well on this lease.

Well No. 24 was struck in February, 1866, and produced 75 barrels per day ; now not producing ; depth 770 feet ; owned by Patterson & Dickey, J. H. Tennent, and others.

Well No. 24½ was struck in June, 1866 ; depth 745 feet ; producing 240 barrels per day ; has yielded its owners over 16,000 barrels.

Well No. 26 is producing 75 barrels per day : depth 775 feet ; struck in June, 1866.

Well No. 27 was struck in February, 1866, and produced 300 barrels per day ; depth 775 feet ; now producing 40 barrels per day ; total production nearly 29,000 barrels ; owned by Messrs. Patterson & Dickey, Mr. Elliott, and others. Two wells are going down on this lease. Dart & Co. were the original lease holders.

Well No. 28 was struck in December, 1865; depth 750 feet, and is producing 10 barrels per day. Patterson & Dickey are also interested in this well and have another in progress of sinking.

Well No. 32 was struck in April, 1866, and produced 10 barrels per day; now not producing; depth 750 feet.

Leroy well, No. 33, was struck in May, 1866; depth 721 feet, and is producing 125 barrels per day.

Well No. 2 was struck in October, 1866, and produced 100 barrels per day.

J. M. Nowlen, late of California, but for a long time engaged in developing territory in this section, is one of the most successful operators on the farm. The wells in which he owns he has cased which tends to prolong the lives of them, and at the same time increases the production. He is the owner of the above two wells.

Well No. 34 was struck in May, 1864, and produced 10 barrels per day; depth 750 feet.

Well No. 35 was struck in February, 1865, and produced 75 barrels per day; now producing 15 barrels; depth 725 feet; owned by J. Stambaugh, Mr. Meldrum, and others. Another well on this lease was struck in October, 1866, and is producing 100 barrels per day; owned by Sayers & Betz and others.

Messrs. Sayers & Betz are largely interested in this and other leases, and they have sunk many wells which have proved successful. They are also developing territory on Pioneer, Bull, and other runs.

Well No. 36 was struck July 1, 1866; depth 750 feet; producing 45 barrels; owned by Robb & Carter, of Philadelphia.

Well No. 37 was struck in May, 1866, producing 50 barrels per day; depth 770 feet; owned by George K. Anderson.

Well No. 38 was struck in April, 1866, and produced 20 barrels per day; now not producing; depth 760 feet; owned by G. V. Boyles. There is one well going down on this lease. J. M. Boyles is Agent and is interested in the development of several leases.

Well No. 39 was struck in May, 1866; depth 750 feet; producing 15 barrels per day.

Well No. 40 was struck in May, 1866; depth 750 feet; produced

30 barrels per day ; is being drilled deeper ; owned by G. V. Boyles and others.

Well No. 41 was struck in May, 1866, and produced 15 barrels per day ; depth 760 feet ; owned by G. V. Boyles and others.

Well No. 46 was struck in July, 1866 ; depth 785 feet ; producing 20 barrels per day.

Well No. 47 was struck in April, 1866 ; depth 792 feet ; produced 200 barrels per day ; now not producing ; one well going down.

Well No. 48 was struck in April, 1866 ; produced 50 barrels per day ; depth 792 feet ; now not producing.

Well No. 50 (King of the Hills) was struck in June, 1866 ; depth 750 feet ; produced 275 barrels per day ; owned by J. A. Sherriff, Isaac Waring, Major Mills and S. G. Krick. Now not producing.

Mr. W. A. Loder, one of the former owners of this lease, has been extensively engaged in developing oil territory. In Bennehoff Run, Stevenson Farm, and also prominently interested in the Morrison Farm ; he has been quite successful in all his undertakings.

The Lady Nora well, on the same lease, was struck in September, 1866, and is producing 150 barrels per day ; owned by George H. Moore, Esq., and others. The well was drilled by Napoleon and Thos. Ferron, who have sunk thirteen wells, all of which have produced largely. They are also interested in the Lady Nora.

Well No. 86 was struck January 23, 1866, and flowed for some time ; owned by Charles H. Page and Mr. Bryson.

Mr. George K. Anderson has recently purchased the entire working interest in the following leases : Nos. 1, 32, 36, 45, 51 and 52. New wells are to be started on leases Nos. 32, 36 and 51, and he will also torpedo some of the above wells.

FIRE.

The disastrous conflagration of March 22, 1866, and the largest which ever occurred on this farm, began at the Ocean well, where two men were engaged in caulking a new tank, containing oil to the amount of 200 barrels. One of the staves being forced out at the bottom created a vacuum through which the oil ran out.

Do you want to buy or sell an engine? Go to S. A. Barnes & Co.

Pouring down the run it communicated with an engine house, and there caught from fire in the furnace. From this point it rapidly spread to the oil tanks of the Ocean Oil Company, of Philadelphia, the Arctic well, No. 20, Patterson, and Dickey No. 19, then down the run to different wells, five in number, belonging to the Breeden & Myers and Breeden & Tennent leases, which were soon enveloped in one huge mass of flames.

In less than fifteen minutes from the breaking out of the fire it was emptying into Oil Creek at the mouth of the run, thus presenting to the eye a terrible mountain of black smoke and flame nearly a mile in length. The damage was estimated at \$156,000. Patterson & Dickey, with the Ocean Oil Company, are the heaviest losers. 20,000 barrels of oil were consumed, with the tankage. Some eighteen engine houses, derricks, engines, and the whole paraphernalia for sinking wells, were destroyed. Two men were burned seriously, three fatally, and one, Frank McKenzie, died at the McClintock House.

THE McCLINTOCK RESERVE,

Being a small portion of the Wash. McClintock Farm which was reserved in the sale made to the Central Petroleum Company. This piece of territory is situated on the bluff rising back from the Central Petroleum Company's Farm and adjoining the Stevenson Farm. A few acres in this tract was purchased by Mr. H. Lehr, in November, 1865. In the Spring of 1866 he commenced developing it and sunk a well on lease No. 2, which produced 300 barrels per day for a long time. The Queen of the Bluff was struck in November, 1865, and produced 290 barrels per day and is still doing largely. Mr. Lehr has been engaged in developing oil territory for a period of five years. Success has crowned his endeavors and he has realized a fortune from his interests.

The Thomas Woods Farm is being rapidly developed and leases were at one time in great demand. Operations have been commenced and when the territory is tested it will prove valuable oil property.

S. A. Barnes & Co. have leases near National well on Pithole Creek.

MR. BERNARD MORAHAN,

A young inventor, has succeeded in devising a pump which claims a superiority over any other sand pump yet invented. The testimonials which he has been the recipient of from operators and producers, is a sufficient guarantee that the invention is one of great worth. Mr. Morahan is also the inventor of several exceedingly fine devices which has proven of immense value. The advantage which this pump has over all others is the power it has to thoroughly clean the well of sediment, which not only facilitates the drilling but prevents the tools from sticking fast in consequence of loose gravel which always adheres to the drill. Mr. Morahan manufactures these pumps at Oil City, Pa.

PIONEER CITY.

Probably no place in the oil regions, excepting Pithole, has had a more rapid development than Pioneer. Until within six months past it was without "a local habitation or a name." The most visionary explorer had not anticipated the founding of a city between Petroleum Centre and Shaffer whose fame should rival that of the best oil producing territory on the creek. Yet to-day there is scarcely any more attractive point to the oil miner within the Venango region. Pioneer City, like all cotemporary settlements in this section, is the outgrowth of that startling energy and determination which are the peculiar characteristics of the oil miner. He builds his derrick, plants his engine, sinks his well, fills his tanks, and lo, a rushing tide of pilgrims, emulous of his greasy conquests, demand like privileges. The trader builds a store, the manufacturer his shop, the butcher his stall, the landlord his hotel and the shipper his platform. Railroads and pipes supplant an army of teamsters to meet the increased demands for transportation, and as civilization forces its way to meet the physical necessities of an industrious and thriving population, gradually the impromptu contrivances of the earlier settlers gives place to more becoming structures and improved mechanical appliances. We cannot here undertake a very elaborate description of the town. It is divided

Casing bought and sold by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

by Pioneer Run which empties into Oil Creek nearly opposite Funkville. It has a church, school house, post office, a commodious railroad depot, and two hotels.

The Frost Hotel, named after its proprietor, A. Frost, is an establishment favorite with oil shippers and business men generally. The popularity which this house has enjoyed for a long season speaks well for the manner in which it is conducted.

The Phillips Hotel, owned by E. Phillips, is one of the best conducted hotels in this section, and has enjoyed a flourishing business for some time. The hotel business here, as in most other new towns, has proved a paying investment, and the public are entertained in a manner quite satisfactory.

The following are the names of the principal oil shippers here : Jenkins & Lowrie, R. H. Boughton, Jr., G. W. N. Yost, A. L. King, Watson & Dinsmore, and Snow & Buek. The pipes from the wells on Pioneer and Western runs, extending to the many platforms on the railroad, has proved a paying investment to the owners. The first pipe laid is owned by J. C. Teller, Esq., and Messrs. Underwood, Hoskins, Gardner, Weed, King and Hoyt. Mr. Teller, the Superintendent of the Pipe Company, is an old operator upon the creek and has been very successful in his operations. He has been interested in the Lady Brooks, Underwood, and several other large producing wells. He was also interested in wells at Pithole.

Messrs. F. W. Andrews, Major Newlon, E. J. Park, S. S. Pinkerton, S. Stewart and Foote & Kernoehan, are the owners of another pipe which connects with all the wells on Western Run to the tank cars on the railroad. Seven hundred barrels of oil can be drawn through this pipe per day. It is superintended by S. S. Pinkerton.

Foote, Dame & Co. have the largest and most complete hardware store in this section, and they are also the inventors of a working-barrel, said to be superior to any yet invented.

Messrs. R. H. Lee and D. Millar have large coal yards at this point. They are extensively known throughout the oil regions and the two firms are doing an extensive and flourishing trade.

C. W. Ames & Co. opened an extensive stock of goods at this

Wells put down by contract by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

point and are also receiving a goodly share of patronage. The store is under the management of Bently Brothers.

The refinery of W. Lowrie & Co. is one of the oldest and most successful refineries in the oil regions. Mr. Lowrie was one of the early pioneers in this section, and established a refinery at the mouth of Western Run. The refinery contains three thirty barrel stills, capable of running off 300 barrels of refined oil per week. A. R. Williams, Esq., of Titusville, and W. C. Scofield, of Cleveland, are also connected with Mr. Lowrie.

PIONEER RUN.

The first developments upon this territory, up Pioneer Run, were commenced in November, 1865, at which time the first well—the Underwood—was sunk, and produced 150 barrels per day; depth 556 feet; owned by the Underwood Oil Company, composed of G. W. Underwood, O. B. Hoskins, M. L. Stewart, G. W. Holden, J. C. Teller, Mr. Foster and J. W. Irwin, Esq., who is the able Superintendent, a gentleman of large experience in oil matters, and one who has been identified among the most successful and enterprising operators in the oil regions.

Wells Nos. 2 and 3 on this lease never produced very largely.

The Lady Brooks well was struck in April, 1866, and produced, when first struck, 700 barrels per day; depth 574 feet. It is now being cleaned out and retubed.

The Lady Hoskins well, on this lease, was struck in August, 1866, and is producing 100 barrels per day. This lease is known as the Lady Brooks Lease, and is owned by the Hoskins Oil Company, Messrs. O. B. Hoskins, G. W. Underwood, Lathrop & Williams, W. Weed and Mrs. Mary B. Brooks.

The Lady Stewart well was struck in April, 1866, and produced 200 barrels per day for some time. It is still producing but not so largely.

The Mary well was struck in July, 1866, and flowed 110 barrels per day; now producing 40 barrels; depth 640 feet; owned by Messrs. Foote & Kernochau. These gentlemen are among the largest producers on this territory, and have recently erected two

Tubing bought and sold by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

1,200 and one 800 barrel tanks near the railroad as receptacles for the oil produced from their wells. Mr. E. E. Partridge, the Assistant Superintendent, has shipped from their wells on this farm, during the months of September and October, over 7,000 barrels of oil. Mr. Partridge is one of the most efficient superintendents on the creek.

The People's Petroleum Company have several fine leases at the mouth of Pioneer Run, and several wells producing and some in process of sinking. The three wells which are completed are producing nearly 300 barrels per day; two wells are about ready to test. The company are also interested in twenty acres on the McElbeny Farm, which is considered good territory. Wm. Garduer, Esq., of Vermont, is the Agent, and is also interested in the Co. He has been for the last two or three years engaged in developing territory; a gentleman of judgment who conducts the affairs of the company in a creditable manner.

The Queen of the Bluff was struck in May, 1866, and produced 150 barrels per day.

THE FOSTER FARM OIL COMPANY.

The Foster Farm comprises 111 acres, situated upon Pioneer Run, extending back east toward the creek. It was first subjected to practical development when the famous Sherman well was struck. This territory was purchased of John Foster in February, 1866, by an association known as the Foster Farm Oil Company, composed of the following gentlemen: E. C. Bishop, S. W. Mason, Paul Persons, Chandler Persons, W. S. Hinekley, Levi A. Skinner, I. L. Ennis, D. W. Jones, L. L. Rose and L. S. Potter. E. C. Bishop, Esq., is Agent, and most prominent stockholder. He was among the first to test the territory for the oleagenious fluid, and possessing that spirit of goaheadativeness which characterizes all successful operators, he rapidly accumulated a handsome fortune. It was through his endeavors that this territory has been so rapidly developed, and the many derricks which are constantly being erected can testify to the endeavors of the indefatigable agent. The first well struck under the jurisdiction of the company, yielded 300

barrels per day, at a depth of 632 feet. It is situated on lease No. 44, and was struck in August, 1863. The working interest is owned by Mr. Lewis Emery and others. The land interest is owned by the Foster Farm Oil Company.

Well No. 35½ was also struck in August, and produced 310 barrels per day; owned by Goss & Case.

Well No. 35 is testing; owned by Messrs. York & Johnson.

Well No. 40 was struck in August, 1866, and is producing 100 barrels per day; first sand 300 feet; second sand 493 feet; third sand 625 feet; working interest owned by William Sample, Esq., and others.

Messrs. Culbertson & Coulter are sinking four wells on leases Nos. 17, 18, 29 and 30, and as the location of the wells are considered good, a large flow is anticipated.

E. G. Persons, Esq., is sinking two wells on leases Nos. 12 and 14.

James Todd, Esq., is sinking wells on Leases Nos. 13, 15, 34, 36 and 37.

Lease No. 45 is owned by Messrs. Bronson & Harrington and is being rapidly developed.

Lease No. 46 is owned by Messrs. Coles & Palmer; testing with good show.

Lease No. 48 is owned by James Seba; one well being sunk.

Lease No. 47 is owned by Nesbit Brothers; one well going down.

Lease No. 70 is owned by Harry King, Esq., of Titusville, one of the most successful operators in this section.

Leases No. 39 and 60 are owned by Messrs. Todd & Reeves, and are rapidly being developed.

L. S. Potter, Esq., the Assistant Superintendent, also a heavy stockholder in the company, is considered one of the ablest officers in charge of wells. The business of the company under his control is conducted in a systematic manner. His long experience in developing oil territory, and the success which he has met in each undertaking, stamps him, in the estimation of producers, as an oil man.

Try us once, and you will again. S. A. Barnes & Co.

THE SHOE AND LEATHER PETROLEUM CO.

This company was organized by D. Harris, Esq., of Titusville, and has proved one of the most remunerative oil companies on the creek. Mr. Harris was the first operator upon Pioneer to commence active developments of the territory. He sunk the first well upon one of the six leases belonging to the company. It reached the third sand rock when the tools got fast and the well was abandoned. Had it not been for this accident Mr. Harris would have claimed the first well struck upon Pioneer Run. He immediately sunk another well upon lease No. 3 (Pride of the Glen) which created a *furor* of excitement. It flowed 150 barrels per day for four months, and it had a tendency to stimulate operators to farther operations upon the territory. The following wells were sunk upon six acres of the Foster Farm, purchased in fee-simple by Mr. Harris for the Shoe and Leather Oil Company, of which he is the largest stockholder.

Well No. 3 (Pride of the Glen) is producing 150 barrels per day.

Well No. 5 was struck in July, 1863, and is producing 100 barrels per day.

Well No. 6 was also struck in July, 1866, and flowed 150 barrels per day; now pumping 100 barrels per day.

Well No. 7 was struck in June, 1866, and flowed 250 barrels per day; now doing 150 barrels per day. Dr. M. C. Egbert, W. W. Williams and Frank O'Harra are interested in this well.

Well No. 8 was struck in July, 1863, and flowed 150 barrels per day.

Well No. 10 is testing; depth 580 feet.

There are ten new wells being rapidly sunk with good indications. Mr. Harris is also the owner of the largest portion of the working interest in the above wells. A gentleman universally respected and of characteristic liberality.

Well No. 5, Pioneer Run, J. Bennehoff Farm, second tier of bluff leases, is owned by P. H. Corbin, of Rochester, and W. B. Todd, of Fredonia. It was struck in August, 1863, and produced 175 barrels per day.

In the Engine trade we defy competition. S. A. Barnes & Co.

Messrs. Corbin & Todd, as operators, have dealt extensively in developing oil territory. They were among the first to sink wells and commence the search for oil in this section. Not satisfied with the successes which have attended them in their previous developments, they are about to sink another well on their lease, and they are also interested in wells going down and some producing on other territory.

GREAT WESTERN RUN,

A tributary of Pioneer Run, is considered the best oil producing territory in the oil regions. From Bennehoff to Pioneer, across the hills, derricks are rapidly rising up, and operators, confident of success, are plunging deeply into the developments and securing the crude which is bountifully supplied to them. The first well struck on this run was the Lowrie well; it was struck in June, 1866, and produced 75 barrels per day; she increased and yielded 175 barrels per day for several months, having been cased; it is now producing 60 barrels per day. It is owned by Messrs. Lowrie & Co.

The Union well was the second well struck on Western Run, and is producing 100 barrels per day; at one time she flowed 500 barrels per day. It is owned by the Union Oil Company, composed of Messrs. G. W. Underwood, O. B. Hoskins, W. Weed, Dr. Burchard, A. R. Williams, Esq., and others. W. Weed, Esq., is the Superintendent. This company has another well on this lease which is producing 150 barrels per day.

G. W. Underwood, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y., is one of the oldest producers in this section. He was among the few who first ventured up the run to sink wells. He was interested in the Underwood, Lady Brooks, and other large wells, and is identified among the most thoroughgoing, practical operators in the oil regions.

The Andrews well on lease No. 1, was struck July 25, 1866, and is producing over 250 barrels per day. It has pumped 350 barrels per day. No. 2, Andrews well, is being sunk. F. W. Andrews, Esq., of Cleveland, Ohio, and the owner of these wells, is classed among the heaviest operators on Western Run. He is also heavily inter-

Interests in producing wells for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

ested in the Pipe Company of Western Run. He has nearly completed an iron tank of 2,000 barrels capacity for the storage of oil from his wells. He has sunk and is interested in several wells in this immediate vicinity, and in every attempt to produce the crude from his wells, fortune has smiled upon him and crowned him with success.

Lease No. 4 is testing; owned by Bronson & Harrington.

Lease No. 3, well No. 1, was struck in October, 1866, and is producing 100 barrels per day. Well No. 2 is producing 50 barrels per day, and well No. 3 is testing. This lease is owned entirely by F. W. Andrews and W. W. Thompson.

A well on lease No. 2, John Bennehoff Farm, called the McAninch well, is producing 125 barrels per day; struck in November, 1866; owned by F. W. Andrews, Thomas and Elija McAninch, and O. D. Harrington.

Foote well, No. 1, was struck in June, 1866, and produced 300 barrels per day; now doing 50 barrels per day.

No. 2 was struck in August, 1866, and produced 300 barrels per day; now doing 270 barrels per day; owned by Messrs. Foote & Kernochan.

The Williams well, on lease No. 1, Bunker Hill tract, was struck in March, 1866, and produced 100 barrels per day.

The Chatfield well was struck in August, 1866, and produced 75 barrels per day. The above two wells are owned by Messrs. Williams, Lowrie and Chatfield, the owners of the large refinery.

On lease No. 4 a well was struck in October, 1866, and produced 125 barrels per day; owned by Silas Simpkins and E. A. Hatch.

The Bliss well is producing about 50 barrels per day.

The Barker well produced 50 barrels per day; owned by C. C. Barker, Esq.

The Gardner well, at the mouth of Pioneer Run, produced 50 barrels per day.

The Wilkinson well is producing 100 barrels per day.

The Duncan Brothers have some fine producing wells, yielding the firm a handsome dividend.

The Dewell well, on the John Bennehoff Farm, was struck in

October, 1866, and is producing 60 barrels per day; owned by M. Dewell and F. Thorn, of Buffalo, N. Y.

The Patterson well is producing 40 barrels per day; owned by Captain Patterson and others.

The Beech well is producing 90 barrels per day.

The Venango City well is producing over 200 barrels per day.

The Harrington well No. 1 is pumping 30 barrels per day. No. 2 is pumping 90 barrels per day.

A new well was struck on the Equator lease, No. 2, and is producing 75 barrels per day; owned by Messrs. Stewart Brothers, J. W. Irwin, J. T. Briggs, L. H. Severance, and others.

Well No. 5, on the Chase lease, is producing 115 barrels per day; owned by George Lord & Co.

On lease No. 9 there is one well being tested with good indications; owned by J. M. Comey, Esq., and others.

O. B. Hoskins, Esq., the prominent agent of several leases, has sunk many wells in this vicinity, and in connection with G. W. Underwood, Esq., and others of pioneer notoriety, organized several companies. The Hoskins, Underwood and Union Oil Companies are among the most influential on this territory. Their developments upon their different leases have yielded them an abundance of oil, still they are actively engaged in developing other territory, meeting success in each undertaking. William Weed, Esq., is also connected with the above companies, and some fortune has been profuse in her dealings with him. He is universally respected.

COLONEL McKENTY.

Colonel McKenty, dealer in oil land, oil interests and Western and Southern lands, has located permanently at Tidioute, Pa. The Colonel has been extensively engaged in real estate operations for the last fifteen years, and has spent thousands of dollars in personal investigation of the oil producing territory of Pennsylvania, and has selected over ten thousand acres of the best oil lands in the counties of this State.

He has already inaugurated an entirely new system of developing

Oil men should remember No. 15 Holmden Street, Pithole, Pa.

oil territory, and one which will revolutionize the business completely, and root out all preconceived ideas about royalty, bonus and kindred systems of extortion. He thinks the present system is too exacting—to oppressive on the lessees. Instead of giving a lease, he offers to give a deed, in fee-simple. Instead of asking a bonus of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per acre and half the oil, as is often done now, he offers the choice in his territory without any bonus. Instead of receiving one-half of all the oil, he receives none of it—no royalty. The parties putting down wells on this territory are to have all the oil, and no bonus is to be paid to go on the land. In addition to this he gives fuel for use while drilling and testing, and timber for derricks and engine houses, all free of expense. After the well is tested the party putting it down may purchase in fee-simple, from one-half to five acres, at \$100 per acre. By reference to his advertising columns in this work, can be seen other inducements which he holds out to operators or others desirous of developing territory.

BULL RUN.

We regret that we have but a few items in relation to this valuable oil producing territory. It has been but recently operated upon, still the actual developments denote it one of the most productive localities in the oil regions.

The Farel Farm, purchased by the Farel Brothers, of Titusville, in 1861, first became famous upon the striking of the renowned Noble well, in May, 1866, the depth of which is 444 feet, and it has produced over 500,000 barrels of crude oil. It averaged 1,500 barrels per day for some months, and its highest production for one day was 3,500 barrels.

The Craft well, on this farm, was struck March 13, 1865, and produced 444 barrels per day; now pumping 50 barrels per day.

There has been several other wells on the farm, producing from 50 to 150 barrels per day. Seven new wells are being sunk and the developments on every part of the run are rapidly augmenting production.

S. A. Barnes & Co. at Pithole, Pa., buy and sell Oil Lands.

The Ames & Keese well, on lease No. 7, is pumping 80 barrels per day; owned by Colonel Keese and C. H. Ames, Esq., of Titusville.

The Boughton well flowed 300 barrels per day, and is now producing 275 barrels per day.

On the Patterson Farm developments are constantly going on and new strikes are often made.

The Skluner Farm, owned by Dr. M. C. Egbert and others, is being rapidly developed. Several new strikes have been made and the wells are producing finely, most of which are owned by Dr. M. C. Egbert.

The Wilson Farm, owned by P. S. Wilson, Esq., is undergoing a test, and wells are going down on many parts of it.

Dr. Bly, of Rochester, and several other Rochester operators, are sinking wells on this run.

The Morrison Farm, adjoining some of the most valuable tracts on the run, is also being actively developed.

The A. Boyd and the McElheny Farms, in the vicinity of Funkville, are being again operated upon. The old Empire and Buckeye wells are being resuscitated by the liberal use of torpedoes, and will eventually yield oil in paying quantities.

The Cow, Calf, and Heifer runs—small tributaries of Bull Run—are being subject to a test, and on each of these runs there are several fine producing wells.

Among the old pioneers in this section who are operating is A. H. Cheeney, Esq., the former superintendent of the Sherman well. Mr. Cheeney has sunk several wells on the banks of the creek and in other localities, and has been very successful in all his operations.

The old Hibbard wells, owned by L. D. Hibbard & Son, of Buffalo, are now not producing. Messrs. Hibbard & Son were among the first to develop the territory on the McElheny Farm where they sunk several wells. They made the first shipment of oil from the renowned Phillips well, on the Tarr Farm.

Coal Lands on Alleg'y River and A. V. R. R. by S. A. Barnes & Co.

TARR FARM.

The wells on this farm are still producing largely and the recent strikes which have been made upon territory rising back from the old leases, have created a *furor* of excitement in this section.

James Kepler, Esq., furnishes us with the following names of wells, with their production:

Keystone well produced 180 barrels per day; now doing nothing.

The James Tarr well was struck in March, 1866; depth 599 feet; producing 35 barrels per day; owned by Messrs. Higbee, Doubleday, Kepler and others.

Well No. 215 was struck in June, 1866, and is producing 100 barrels per day.

The Duff well is producing 80 barrels per day.

The Bakery well is producing 85 barrels per day.

Parker well No. 1 is flowing 40 barrels per day.

Parker well No. 2 is flowing 50 barrels per day.

Sumner & Pratt's well was struck about November 16, 1866, and is producing 300 barrels per day.

The Two Archer wells are doing 75 barrels per day.

The Monitor well No. 3 was struck in October, 1865, and produced 50 barrels per day; owned by George H. Van Vleck, Esq., of Buffalo, N. Y.

On lease No. 233 (Archer & Van Vleck) there are two wells, producing about 115 barrels per day.

The Martin & Woodford well is pumping 40 barrels per day.

There are over twenty new derricks, recently erected, and wells are being rapidly sunk. The history of the large wells of this farm are too well known for me to indulge in any remarks concerning them. Since the completion of the Farmers' Railroad to this point the business of shipping oil is greatly improved. Shippers have erected large platforms, and buildings of all kinds are rapidly rising up. Messrs. J. Bartlett & Co. have platforms at this point, and are shipping a large quantity of oil. The town claims a hotel and post office and several fine offices and dwellings. The hotel is well filled and doing a thriving business which speaks favorably of the

popularity of its host. The Postmaster, A. L. Holt, established himself here nearly two years ago and assumed control of the post office. The office under his jurisdiction has yielded the Government a large revenue, and he is well worthy of the honor which the Post Office Department has conferred upon him.

V. M. Thompson, Esq., of the Commercial Oil Company, is largely interested in wells on this farm.

THE STORY FARM

Is also productive of several good wells. The Babcock well is producing 125 barrels per day. The Titus wells, two in number, are producing 40 barrels per day. The Guepner wells, on lease No. 21, are doing 80 barrels per day, and there are several others producing from 20 to 80 barrels per day. Developments of new territory adjoining this are constantly going on, and new strikes are not an uncommon occurrence.

CHURCH RUN.

The operations now going on at this place have a deep significance to all those interested in the production of oil, and if we are not much mistaken are closely connected with the immediate future of Titusville.

The first wells on this run were sunk within the city limits, and gradually extended about half a mile up stream; not one of them proved self-sustaining. About a mile and a half from Titusville is situated the Eureka, struck over a year ago, on the lands of the Atlantic and Great Western Company; it has pumped seventy-five barrels per day from the start, having altogether produced over 20,000. The other paying wells, some seven in number, are situated in the same neighborhood. The Sutter well produces 35 barrels per day. That there is an immense parent stream of oil flowing through these hills from the direction of Little Oil Creek, distant about two miles from Church Run, admits of but very little doubt, and he who first taps it, high up on the mount, or in the valley of Little Oil Creek, will realize all the golden dreams of the most sanguine believer.

The following gentlemen are interested in the development of territory on this run: G. M. Mowbray, O. Keese, F. W. and C. H. Ames, A. R. Williams, F. H. Eddy, J. H. Bunting, Briggs & Severance, J. A. Cadwalader, Col. P. Davidson and S. H. Stowell, Esq.

The Lady Winants well was struck the 21-st of November, 1866, and is producing 30 barrels per day; owned by C. L. I. Winants and Curtiss & Co., of Titusville.

The Shippers well is being tested with good indications. J. H. Bunting, Esq., is interested in this well.

S. H. Stowell, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y., has several acres of valuable territory near the Sutter well, which is being rapidly developed. Arthur Burtis, Esq., one of the most prominent operators in the oil regions, is about to commence operations upon this territory. He is now sinking two wells on lease No. 29, Bennehoff Run, in the midst of the large wells. He is one of the earliest pioneers in this section, and has developed territory to some considerable extent; as an operator and gentleman he is universally respected.

THE ROBERTS TORPEDO.

Of all the inventions brought forward in connection with oil mining, Col. Roberts' Torpedo is certainly the greatest success. The owners of abandoned wells have tested it most satisfactorily in hundreds of instances, and the oil production has been increased by its operations in the Venango region to exceed, probably 4,000 barrels per day.

A well suddenly stops producing, a torpedo is sunk to the proper depth and exploded, the seams are reopened, new fountains are developed, and the well renews its lease of existence, and in many cases is more prolific than before.

Already the demand for this invention has required increased facilities for manufacturing. It has been introduced in Canada and West Virginia with the same marked success, and will be in requisition so long as oil mining shall be prosecuted as a legitimate business. Several suits have arisen in consequence of a violation of Col. Roberts' patent, and the courts have invariably sustained the patentee. The price of the Torpedo places it within reach of

Tubing bought and sold by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

every operator, and hence the increasing demand for its application. Col. R. will doubtless realize a substantial fortune from his invaluable "restorative," as the United States Circuit Court at Pittsburgh has granted injunctions against Alex. Hamar, Albert E. Nickerson and their agents, and two other parties, for manufacturing and using torpedoes which are infringements upon the Colonel's patent. Lately, a decision in the long contested torpedo patent suit at Washington has been rendered, upon which the Patent Office has issued to him a patent, November 20, 1866, antedated six months to May 20, 1866, whereby he has the *exclusive right to use explosives to increase the production of oil wells*, thus settling, without a doubt, the whole controversy on the torpedo question, and proving that Ballantine's and all other torpedoes are infringements upon Colonel Roberts' original or subsequent patent.

TRANSPORTATION OF OIL IN BULK.

Quite a revolution has taken place in the method of transporting petroleum between the oil regions and the New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland markets. Within the last year several companies have been organized, and are in operation, for the exclusive business of moving oil in bulk, that is, in tanks instead of barrels. These tanks are of various forms and mounted on the ordinary railroad flat car, and iron and wood are severally used in their construction. The Blue Tank Line gives the former the preference for its durability and non-liability to fire.

The daily shipments of the Oil Tank Company (more generally known as Yost's, or Blue Line,) exceed 2,000 barrels of crude, and require about fifty tanks daily. This one company has several hundred cars entirely devoted to this purpose. This line is under the superintendence of G. W. N. Yost, Esq., a pioneer in the petroleum business, whose generosity and nobility of character is as wide-spread as his extensive operations. Captain John L. Miller, of Moler Farm, is agent on Oil Creek, and E. McKenzie, Esq., in New York. Mr. Yost's purchases exceed any other one buyer in the oil regions. He is assisted by a staff of buyers of whom we

Interests in producing wells for sale by S. A. Barnes & Co.

may make honorable mention of E. J. Park, Major E. D. Luxton and J. H. Fulton, whose long experience and gentlemanly deportment amply fit them for this vocation.

The Red Line, another tank company, is owned by Snow, Buck & Co., of New York, who are ably represented by Messrs. Smith & Coutant, of Titusville.

The Empire Tank Company is connected with the transportation company of the same name, and is too well known to need more than passing notice. We believe we are correct in stating that upwards of 1,000 tank cars are employed in this business. The round trip is generally made in about ten days, and the enormous quantities thus transported have a marked effect upon the transportation business.

TITUSVILLE.

The City of Titusville was incorporated by Act of Legislature, February 27, 1866, and was organized on the 2d day of April, 1866, as follows: *Mayor*—J. N. Angier. *Common Council*—George Cusatar, J. H. Bunting, Henry B. Ostrom, Thomas Goodwin, R. D. Fletcher, A. W. Coburn, W. W. Bloss, J. J. McCrum. *School Directors*—James P. Burtis, Thomas Smith, F. W. Ames, O. K. Howe, George C. Bartlett, E. H. Chase, F. W. Chesshire, J. J. Sutter. *Justices of the Peace*—Simon Strouse, George M. Mowbray.

Titusville is very properly recognized as the metropolis of Oil-dom. It was here that the development of petroleum was first prosecuted as a legitimate business, and here naturally centred the trade and commerce of the whole oil producing country. From a mere village, containing less than two hundred inhabitants, it rapidly expanded into a bustling and thrifty town, and on the 17th of February, 1866, with a population of between 7,000 and 8,000, it was incorporated a city.

The business statistics of Titusville fairly reflect the enterprise of its people. Nearly every industrial pursuit is represented, and the mercantile interests of the place fully sustain its reputation as the first commercial city of the oil region. Five handsome and commodious blocks have been erected within two years past, and others

Wells put down by contract by S. A. Barnes & Co., Pithole, Pa.

are projected or in course of construction. There are also various civic and literary associations, which are very creditably sustained.

Titusville has seven church societies, two National Banks, Board of Trade, Literary Association, Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, Merchants' Association, two Masonic Lodges, Harnagar Society, A. D. O. H., Washington German Benevolent Society, a Union Academy with 450 pupils, a Collegiate Institute, and a German School.

The proprietors of the *Morning Herald* have the largest and most complete printing establishment in this section, and their daily newspaper, which was the first enterprise of the kind in the oil country, has attained a wide-spread circulation. The same company also publish a weekly paper, called the *Weekly Herald and Petroleum Reporter*.

The hotels of Titusville are worthy a passing notice, and would be considered creditable to any locality. The Crittenden and American are the largest, and undoubtedly the most attractive.

The new local administration have, during the present year, greatly improved and beautified the city, and, judging from the public spirit and liberality which have hitherto characterized its people, we may safely indulge the prediction that Titusville will soon be recognized as the most healthful and inviting, as already the largest and most prosperous city of the "Oildorado."

PITHOLE CITY.

A sketch of the oil regions, not to include Pithole, would be like omitting the character of Hamlet from the play. But Pithole is no longer King. Her greasy sceptre has departed. The oil pilgrim steers for another Mecca, and even the names of some of the famous wells which attracted the multitude and enriched the few, are already forgotten. The balloon city has itself collapsed; the once busy and crowded streets are almost deserted; many of the hotels and business "palaces" are alike tenantless; scores of oil tanks are empty, and hundreds of derricks are silent mementoes to abandoned holes; the laborers are few, and mourners go about the streets. Take away the Pithole *Record*, the Chase House, "Crocus" and the Swordsman's Club, and the public spirit of Pithole would be a

thing of the past. Yet the actual production of oil on Pithole Creek cannot be less than 1,800 barrels per day, and the bluff territory promises to still further reward the industry of the oil miner.

PLEASANTVILLE

Is very appropriately named. It is situated about half way between Titusville and Pithole, and is a very thriving and agreeable town. Messrs. Brown Brothers have an extensive wholesale house and are among the heaviest capitalists in the oil regions. Judge Holmes, better known as the bard of the oil regions, has given Pleasantville a literary reputation through his "bubbling gas and gushing oil lubrications."

Detective W. H. Harris, formerly of Erie, has now an extensive celebrity by the success with which he has ferreted out criminals in the oil regions and brought offenders to justice. His services are in constant requisition for this purpose, for he is always sure of his game, and is one of the most efficient Deputy Sheriffs in the State.

TIDIOUTE,

Like various other towns in this region, is the sudden outgrowth of an astonishing development of crude oil, and has all the characteristics of its predecessors. Dennis Run has become famous for its large wells and rapidly increasing production, and we see in Tidionte the same restless, nervous activities which characterize the energetic pioneer. Three months have sufficed to build a thriving and populous town, which boasts its tri-weekly *Journal*, edited by E. A. S. & J. B. S. Stevens, whose columns are filled by shrewd, liberal advertisers, representing every branch of industry and speculation. There is no more promising oil territory in Western Pennsylvania, and the railroad facilities for transportation render it convenient and profitable both for shippers and producers. Several extensive fires have taken place, but new wells are constantly going down, and good strikes are of almost daily occurrence.

SHAFFER

Was at one period a bustling and populous town, and as the terminus of the Oil Creek Railroad, indicated permanence and wealth. The extension of the railroad to Petroleum Centre subjected it to

Do you want to buy or sell an engine? Go to S. A. Barnes & Co.

serious disadvantages, and frequent incendiary fires greatly retarded its growth and prosperity. It maintains, however, a steady material development and enjoys a lively trade. Owners of bluff territory are making arrangements for extensive and thorough development, and should the results meet their expectations, the town will derive very substantial benefits.

MILLER FARM

Was the termination of Van Syckle's oil pipe from Pithole, and about one-half mile above Shaffer. It is on the north side of the creek, and was laid out by the Indian Rock Oil Company, and at one time exhibited considerable enterprise. Several wells have been sunk in the neighborhood, but very little oil procured. The name of the post office is Meredith. It has not shown much commercial activity of late.

In the Fall of 1864, being the nearest point on the railroad to Pithole, it was the largest shipping point in the oil regions. Pithole was at this time producing from 5,000 to 8,000 barrels of oil per day, and the greater portion was shipped to this point. It has two fine hotels, the Pierce and Alvord, and are conducted in a creditable manner.

General M. H. Avery erected a large iron tank, and is among the most enterprising operators here.

Colonel J. F. Ramsey, agent for Spencer & McKays Aie, also of the firm of Ramsey & Fleming, coal dealers, of Pithole and Miller Farm, is also identified among the most energetic operators in this region. Emmett Fleming, Esq., of Buffalo, is also connected with Colonel Ramsey in buying and selling oil.

GURDON S. BERRY,
Attorney and Counselor at Law,
AND COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS,

No. 1 Fletcher's Block, TITUSVILLE, PA.

Gives especial attention to collection and transfer of oil lands and leases. Titles examined and defects of record evidence supplied. Taxes paid and interests preserved from or redeemed after forfeiture. Oil and mining charters procured or modified. Best of references furnished on application.

V. M. ALPINE,
SURGEON DENTIST,

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Office permanently established (since January, 1866,) over Sobel's clothing store.

REFERENCES.—Dr. B. T. Whitney, Buffalo; Dr. A. C. Crysler, Niagara Falls; Dr. William Foster, Pioneer City; Rev. E. A. Squires, T. H. Stuart, Dr. L. H. Christie, Marshall & Elliot, lawyers, Petroleum Centre, Pa.

F. D. HAMILTON & CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

Cigars, Tobaccos and Snuffs

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HATS AND CAPS!
NEW WINTER FURS

Fancy Robes, Gents' Furnishing Goods,
LADIES' TRAVELING BAGS.

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First door west of Postoffice, TITUSVILLE, Pa. Highest price paid for all kinds of Furs. Give me a call.

D. MILLAR.

COAL! COAL! COAL! COAL!

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS AT HIS YARDS AT

Pioneer, Boyd Farm and Petroleum Centre,

Mercer County, Ohio, Blossburgh, and

ALL GRADES OF ANTHRACITE COAL

WHICH HE IS PREPARED TO

FURNISH IN QUANTITIES TO SUIT CUSTOMERS,

And on the best of terms. His facilities for getting forward coal are such as will make it an object for parties desiring a large or regular supply, to give him their trade.

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CRITTENDEN HOUSE

TITUSVILLE, PA.

E. H. CRITTENDEN,

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This elegant Hotel is entirely new—built with all the modern improvements.

MAGNIFICENTLY FURNISHED

And perfect in all its appointments. An omnibus conveys passengers to and from the depot.

The Hotel is Centrally Located,

And is the largest and best regulated Hotel in the Oil Regions.

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Attorney and Counselor at Law

And Commissioner of Deeds, and Soldiers' Claim Agent,
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All professional business will receive prompt and faithful attention.

REFERENCES.—First National Bank. Best of references in other parts of the country if desired.

AMERICAN HOUSE,
SPRING STREET,

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WILLIAMS & STOWELL, - - - Proprietors.

The great degree of popularity which this house has enjoyed is a sufficient guarantee of its excellence. This house has all the modern improvements, with large and commodious rooms, and it is unsurpassed by any hotel in the oil regions for the comfort and convenience of guests. Omnibus to and from the depot.

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American Watches,—gold and silver—Ladies' Gold Watches, Gold and Silver Chains, Ring, Lockets, Keys, Jewelry, &c., Silver and Plated Ware, Tea Sets, Castors, Cake Baskets, Butter Dishes, Spoons, &c., Morton's Gold Pens, the best in use. Spectacles, all styles and for all ages. Hotel and Office Clocks, with calendar. House Clocks, all styles. Pistols, Fine Pocket Cutlery, Fancy Goods, &c. All goods warranted as represented. Watch repairing done in the best manner and warranted.

W. B. SNOW'S

Patent Liquid Packing Pump

FOR OIL WELLS.

We are now prepared to furnish any demand for these Pumps. Sent by express to all parts of the oil regions by Bryan, Dillingham & Co., sole agents for the State of Pennsylvania.

It needs but a Trial to Prove its Merits,

Working entirely without leather or any other flexible packing, never wearing out.

The following wells on Bennehoff Run have been improved by this pump: Leases No. 26, 33, 34, 51, and 24 and Nos. 1 and 2 Stevenson Farm, Union well No. 2, Pioneer Run, and in many others.

W. B. SNOW & CO.

Office, Bryan, Dillingham & Co., Franklin street, Titusville, Pa.

ALBERT S. HAVER,
Attorney & Counselor at Law.

OFFICE ON WASHINGTON STREET, NEAR NUNDA HOUSE,

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References by Permission :

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“ Barcroft & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

“ J. H. Clapp & Co., Bankers, Boston, Mass.

“ Cummings, Brown & Co., New Orleans, La.

“ Walker & Dexter, Attorneys at Law, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Joseph Durbrow, Bankers, San Francisco, Cal.

Messrs. Johnston Brothers & Co., Bankers, Baltimore, Md.

Messrs. Warren, Talbot & Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Hon. Alexander Ramsey, U. S. Senator, St. Paul, Minn.

Hon. Henry M. Rice, St. Paul, Minn.

Hon. William R. Marshall, Governor of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

Hon. Thomas Wilson, Chief Justice of Minnesota, Winona, Minn.

First National Bank, St. Paul, Minn.

Second National Bank, St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. Samuel Q. Brown, Pleasantville, Venango Co., Pa.

Hon. Arnold Plummer, Franklin, Venango Co., Pa.

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HENRY McKENTY,

Dealer in Oil Lands, Oil Interests, Western and Southern Lands.
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ALL THE OIL! NO ROYALTY!

GREAT INDUCEMENTS

to parties who want to
BORE FOR OIL.

The undersigned has inaugurated a new system in the oil regions of Pennsylvania. He offers the following inducements, so that almost any person who has industry and perseverance can go on the land and bore for a flowing oil well :

1st. NO ROYALTY.

The oil to belong exclusively to the party putting down the well.

2d. ALL THE WOOD WANTED FOR FUEL,

for drilling and testing, free of expense.

3d. Timber for Engine Houses and Derricks,

also without charge.

4th. When the well is down and fully tested, the party shall have the privilege of purchasing from one-half to five acres in fee simple, upon which the well is located at a hundred dollars per acre.

The undersigned has expended thousands of dollars during the last twelve months in exploring the oil fields of Pennsylvania, and during that time has selected over

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of beautiful oil territory. It has been selected with great care, and most of it is situated in the midst of TERRITORY ALREADY DEVELOPED, and where oil is now obtained in large quantities.

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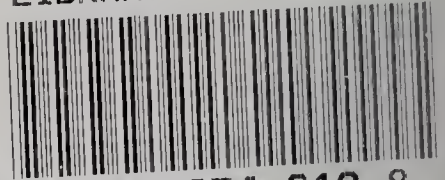
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Combination equal to 100 lbs. powder... ..	150 00
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34 lb. Powder Torpedo, without combination.	30 00